

CITY OF WILDER, KENTUCKY

January 25, 2022

City Council Special Meeting

The special meeting of the Wilder City Council was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the Wilder City Building, 520 Licking Pike, Wilder, Kentucky 41071. (Downstairs in the hall)

Call to Order:

Councilwoman Valerie Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Jones welcomed the first responders to the meeting.

Introduction of Council:

Councilwoman Meiser
Councilwoman Decker
Councilman Blankenship
Mayor Arnold
Councilwoman Jones
Councilman Proffitt
Councilman Williams

Councilwoman Jones introduced Fire Chief Neyman and Police Chief Martin to the meeting.

Meeting Objectives:

- To collaborate with our citizens and others on how to best use the ARPA funds.
- To offer a forum for you to voice your thoughts.
- To harness the wisdom of our residents and solicit ideas and recommendations.

Councilwoman Jones explained ARPA stands for The American Rescue Plan Act. It was stimulus money given to the cities by the Federal Government. The funds can be used by each city for the city development and growth and try to advance the city.

Council would like to offer a forum to the residents and gather their thoughts and draw on the residents ideas.

Councilwoman Jones stated council is not prepared to make any decisions or promises at the meeting this evening.

Several projects are being evaluated and some of those projects and ideas are provided on the table in the back.

Stimulus Funds:**Funds Installments:**

- 8/21/21 - \$395,689
- June or July 2022 - \$395,689
- Total - \$791,378

Spent to date:

- Premium Pay to Wilder's essential workers and staff for the heighten risk they faced during the pandemic.
- \$159,554

ARPA balance remaining:

- \$631,824

Seven General Headings for Expenditure Categories as of 10/18/21:

- Public Health
- Negative Economic Impact
- Services to Disproportionately impacted communities
- Premium Pay
- Infrastructure (water, sewer broadband only)
- Revenue replacement
- Administrative

Timeline:

- Funds must be obligated by 12/31/24.
- Projects completed by 12/31/26

Survey:

- Councilwoman Jones presented a survey to council to be approved and to be distributed to people at the end of the meeting. Councilwoman Jones was going to get the survey approved at the last council meeting, but that meeting was canceled. Attorney Verst advised her to get the survey approved by council at the special meeting before she distributed the survey to the public. Councilwoman Jones passed it out to council and asked if there was any objections to the survey. There was no objections by Council or the Mayor. Councilwoman Jones stated since there was no objections, she would hand the survey out at the end of the meeting. This survey will also be distributed to the residents. It will be emailed to the residents and it will also be put on the City's website and Facebook page.

Residents input:

- A resident complimented the police and fire department. He said, “They do a great job.” He also thought the garden plots were a great idea. He hopes that will happen this year.
- A resident asked council what were some of the projects the city may develop?
 - Mayor Arnold stated there are several developments in the works.
 - One is Fischer development off of Three Mile
 - There is also a project on Three Mile by the Verst Family home.
 - The city also owns some property; the two houses across the street, the property on the corner of John’s Hill and the Bank lot across from the Firehouse on South Street. There are several different developers that may be interested in putting a development in one or some of these properties.
 - A developer has approached the city about a development down at Frederick’s Landing.
 - The city was awarded a grant from the state for \$250,000 to put towards an Amphitheater at Frederick’s Landing.
 - Councilwoman Jones mentioned there were some plans that were on the table in the back about a bridge at Frederick’s Landing and an upscale RV park. This information is public record.
 - Mayor Arnold stated the North Fire Station was sold to a developer. The developer has invested about \$700,000 in the building. He will brew beer and have a sit down restaurant at this location. The brewery will be called “Wildfire”.
- A resident stated he was happy the city paid out a premium payment to the first responders.
- Mayor Arnold stated the city recently bought a new ambulance and it will arrive this week.
- A resident stated she would like to see their tax dollars used for public safety to support our first responders. She would also like to see some of the money used on the city’s crumbling streets.
- One resident suggested a dog park. She also stated she feels the ARPA money should be used for anything that was neglected during the pandemic; like any infrastructure or anything the first responders may need.
- Mayor Arnold stated the comprehensive plan study the city did a couple years ago called for gathering spots. The city is looking into further economic developments.
- The Licking River Greenway trail project starts in Newport and would come through Wilder and would go to the interstate.
- A resident asked about the RV Park and would there have to be a zone change. Mayor Arnold stated he was not sure. More information to come regarding the RV and Camping Park.
- A resident thanked the Mayor and council for holding the Listening Meeting. She stated she feels the city is well ran by Mayor Arnold, council and City Administrator Vance.

Closing:

- Councilwoman Jones thanked council for approving the Listening Meeting at the last council meeting. She also thanked Mayor Arnold for coming to the meeting.
- Councilwoman Jones asked the residents to fill out the “Wish List” in the packet handed out to them.
- Councilwoman Meiser handed out the survey. This survey will be sent out to all the residents by email. Councilwoman Meiser asked everyone to sign up for the email list.
- Councilwoman Jones thanked everyone for coming.
- Each councilmember thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Attached to the minutes:

- Sign in sheet
- Copy of the presentation and agenda
- Survey handed out at the meeting

N/A

None

I assume we can't influence the need for something done on Johns Hill Road - that's always the most pressing need for our community. But - I believe that's out of our hands. Continue to focus on great family things for the children. We are a family community. Might be nice if there were some sort of small park somewhere else than at the city building. Thinking - something within walking distance of homes. Whether by the condos or up on the hill. But, I imagine getting the land for that would be difficult.

Need to change exit lanes at Town & Country so double lane can turn left.

1. A dog park
2. summer concert series
3. a public library

Restaurants on the river, Campbell County North High School, Hiking Trails

1. Infrastructure. Water/Sewer/Utility improvements that will allow the city to move forward with plans. 2. Allowable wishlist items that the fire department or police may need.

1. Keep the community garden;
2. More restaurants & bars

(Not in any order)- Micro Brewery, Wilder Landing, Amphitheater

Would love to have a "city center" with local shops and restaurants

Test from Karen

1. Restaurants, Coffee Shop- Frederick Landing concept without RV park;
2. Structural catch up, equipment, tires, potholes in city, sidewalk repair, curb repair, replacing costly city A/C, furnace;
3. Making sure that dock is in great condition, removing dead trees

Infrastructure for further development Fence surrounding splash park Take advantage of our Licking River access for further entertainment development.

1. Dog Park with trees & shelter for the owners.
 2. Marina at landing with restaurant.
- Help small businesses who suffer due to Covid

hiking trails along the river, a new restaurant/food truck entertainment area,

I don't have any answers

1. Any new restaurants, pubs, dog park, coffee shop, wine bar; 2. Love amphitheater idea; 3. Recreational at Frederick's Landing. Not of fan of the RV PARK!

I hope the meeting went well? I'm sure that there were many ideas. My input would have been to save the funds or use to pay down debt; however, there were probably qualifiers stating the funds couldn't be used for such...: My input in general is to not expand public services because doing such will require additional tax dollars to maintain/upkeep. An example of this is the swimming/wade pool added..... It is very nice, but who are the main users? I believe it is non Wilder residents. Are these non residents paying for the upkeep? What is the annual cost to maintain the wade pool? Could the money be given to the state in some type of partnership, to properly fix John Hills Road where it has been sinking for decades? What about a sidewalk or path of some sort to bring "upper" wilder and "lower" wilder together? This might provide a sense of unity as we gather at Frederick's landing.

Rick: Recreational (Tennis, Courts/Pickleball); Kayak Rental, Sit Down Restaurant

Merry: Music Concert, Coffee Shop/Restaurant, Walking Trails

1. Dog park for small and large dogs with shelters for bath; 2. Flood plain improvement so landing could be used.; 3. Up keep of streets

1. Fix roads- including John Hill, repave less than annually (realizing the city doesn't own) but can influence? share funding; 2. Beautify city gardens- Community garden plots, fenced to protect from critters, landscaping with walking paths; 3. Reasons to gather at Frederick's Landing other than walk, fish, picnic

1. Continue gardens; 2. Community night at Frederick's Landing with food trucks, music, etc.; 3. Continue support of first responders competitive pay, state of the art equipment for fire & police.

More retail options, maybe Costco or Sams club and restaurants other than fast food

A community pool More community events LED street lights

Trees/Monarch Garden, Pickle Ball or Baseball Field, New Firestation

1. Bank; 2. Baseball Field/Recreation Area; 3. Childcare Facility

(1) Flat, safe walking areas for senior citizens (with good parking) (2) Personally, better access to our home mailboxes. Not sure if the ARPA funds can be used for that. (3) Indoor meeting space for community groups such as a local DAR chapter

Prefer to have permanent pickleball courts. Believe they would be used more often rather than having to bring a net or reserve net, especially when the concession stand and office aren't always open when people decide to play. Also, having courts away from sand and other things

would allow for a safer environment. Not fun to play when kids are running on the courts, and sand is all over the place.

1. Restaurants; 2. Retail-coffee shop; 3. Entertainment

election audit, more white fencing, longer turning lane off route 9 North onto Johns Hill Rd

Upgrades to the road dept

Kids events ...

bigger, full court basketball maybe at Fredrick's landing, more play area at Fredrick's, baseball/football field, more involved summer program for teens,

Have not thought about it yet.

Public nature paths

Help local businesses survive. Put money into the police and fire. Put money into roads and infrastructure

concert in the park

Adult activities exercise program senior lunch

Nice restaurant that is not a big chain or sports bar.

More trails or extension of existing trails

1. Banking facility; 2. Additional recreational facilities/baseball, soccer; 3. Area for food trucks at Frederick's Landing during the summer

1. Street & Road Repair; 2. Bring in gathering areas; 3. Additional court space (Pickleball, Basketball, etc.)

Upgrade garden box area. Upgrade concert area. Area for food trucks

No input

Dog park. Programs for kids (year round). Programs for seniors (year round)

More sidewalks.

A pool would be nice. You all are doing a great job with the city.

Evergreen trees in area by new fence, decorative pots for Christmas / holiday greenery.
Community Christmas tree with outdoor natural ornaments, lighting and social to follow. Families could make and donate ornaments to withstand the weather. Firemen could use fire ladders to help decorate tree in front of city bldg.

1. Invest in recruiting, hiring, training and equipment for police & fire department.; 2. Repair and maintain current infrastructure roads, sidewalks @ common areas., 3. Expand recreation courts-pickle ball

Any of the projects under consideration should be evaluated for benefit to the city residences and future costs to the city. The RV Park will be of limited value to the city residences and will be an additional strain on city resources. The park will generate litter. Overnight camping in a college town could result in a party atmosphere and a major headache for first responders and public works.

Restaurants and shops

1. Additional courts for multi-use; 2. Food trucks at Frederick's Landing during summer weekends.

Fredericks landing upgrades, ballpark/soccer fields, more housing

Restaurant, Coffee Shop, Marina

I'm not sure.

1. My mailbox closer to my home. Our present mailboxes are in need of replacement or repaired and painted. A third cluster of mailboxes on our street would serve the senior citizens much better since our street is a steep hill. 2. An area/weather protected for seniors to walk/do simple exercise. 3. Meeting place for local non-profit organizations.