



The city is conducting public meetings using a hybrid model. The public was welcome to attend this meeting in-person at City Hall or virtually.

Members Present: Chair Patrick Reed, Barbara Bitetto, Charla Neuman

Staff Present: Administrative Services Director (ASD) Jeff Steffens, Chief Financial Officer Kassandra Raymond (CFO), and Financial Services Manager (FSM) Dori Franich

The meeting convened at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Reed.

Committee Business

Utility Assistance Program: At the ARPA Committee meeting of July 19, 2022, ASD Steffens requested direction from the Committee to explore options and alternatives for providing financial assistance from ARPA funds to relieve utility arrearages.

ASD Steffens presented a background and summary of utility payments impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, including payment plan and balance history. Staff also discussed the status of regional assistance through both Pierce County and the WA State Department of Commerce.

Staff presented a variety of options to use ARPA funding to provide assistance to those customers with outstanding payment plan balances.

The Committee members concurred to recommend a program to utilize available ARPA funding to eliminate payment plan balances. In addition, five individual grants of up to \$250.00 will be available for the customers who entered into payment plans that have already paid off their plan, with the intent that those who paid early are not penalized for their early payoff.

The original payment plan application included a required attestation that the plan was necessary due to fiscal impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Staff will develop a targeted mailing to advise customers of the ARPA benefit, outlining that this is a one-time program and all future balances will be subject to the collection procedures outlined in the Sumner Municipal Code, up to an including service interruption.

Staff will bring a budget amendment to the September 6, 2022 meeting to appropriate up to \$55,000 of ARPA funding for direct utility assistance.

With no further items, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Prepared by Chief Financial Officer Kassandra Raymond