

## ADVISORY BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

AUGUST 11, 2021  
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

The Advisory Budget/Finance Committee met on this date with Rev. Craig Mathews, Chairman presiding and the following members present: J Ina, Rodney Olander, Leslie “Les” Rulf, Jr., Patrick J. Hebert, James W. Bennett, Jr, Mark A. Duhon, Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D., Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo, and Dean S. Adams. Absent was Scott Ramsey.

Also present were Chief Administrative Officer, Henry LaGrange, Director of Finance, Paul Governale, and Parish President, David Hanagriff.

The Invocation was pronounced by Mr. Ina and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bennett.

Referred from the Regular Meeting June 9, 2021 - The Teche Project has submitted their Pre-Application requesting funds for Year 2021. Funding Request is \$2,000.00.

Mr. Bennett moved to deny the Teche Project requested funds of \$2,000.00 for Year 2021. Mr. Adams seconded the motion.

In response to Mr. Ina’s request, Mr. LaGrange stated we have never funded this program before. We have provided assistance with their canoe launch in the past. Mr. LaGrange recommended allowing the administration an opportunity to consider an allocation in the 2022 budget process.

Mr. Hebert informed the Council of Swamp Base and the number of people it brings into the parishes that participate with these ventures.

Mr. Bennett suggested referring this request to the Tourism Commission for funding.

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Bennett moved to deny the Teche Project requested funds of \$2,000.00 for Year 2021 and to readdress this allocation in the 2022 budget. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### A. Discussion and action relative to American Rescue Plan Funds.

Rev. Mathews stated that on behalf of the Council, a request was made that guidelines or regulations were requested from Administration on the American Rescue Plan Funds to help guide us.

Mr. LaGrange expounded on the amount received in June, 2021 from the American Rescue Plan Funds in the amount of \$4,792,635 and the second half will be received next year. First priority will be to use the funds to make up revenues and reductions in the St. Mary Parish Budget; \$3,277,177 is the amount calculated for parish’s revenue reduction and \$330,479 is the District Attorney’s revenue reduction amount. The remaining balance of \$1,184,968 is proposed to be used for Water and Sewer Infrastructure.

Mr. LaGrange explained that the legislature has established a Water Sector Grant Program and has allocated \$30 million of its American Rescue Plan Funds for water and sewer infrastructure project. Also provided was a St. Mary Parish Potable Water Treatment Plants Inventory list which provided a list of Water and Sewer Treatment/Distribution Plants renovation projects and the sewer collection projects.

Rev. Mathews inquired if Hwy. 318 south of the Railroad tracks and West St. Mary Civic Center sewer collection were included in the list; Mr. LaGrange stated he will review the list and add if not included.

David Hanagriff, Parish President, expounded on leveraging the funds toward the Water and Sewer Commissions Projects with matching funds from their respective budgets. He also informed of the money the five municipalities received from the American Rescue Plan.

Mr. Adams requested to receive more detailed revenue reduction information. Mr. LaGrange informed they will supply the Council Members with the worksheets and the Department of Treasury guidelines on the American Rescue Plan by Friday, August 13, 2021.

Mr. LaGrange informed the base year for calculated revenue reductions is for the year ending December 2019. The revenue reduction calculation amount is for the year ending December 2020.

In reference to Mr. Hebert's question on the amounts the municipalities are receiving from the American Rescue Plan Funds, Mr. LaGrange stated the municipalities would receive the following amounts: Baldwin \$820,702.41, Berwick \$1,634,377.62, Franklin \$2,481,339.55, Morgan City \$3,972,954.16 and Patterson \$2,142,184.93.

Mr. Ina questioned if there was a time frame for the money to be spent from the American Rescue Plan Fund and Mr. LaGrange reported funds will need to be obligated to a project prior to December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.

Dr. Rink asked if there would be a revenue reduction for 2022 year also. Mr. LaGrange stated that the 2022 budget has not been reviewed yet.

Per an inquiry by Rev. Mathews, Mr. LaGrange explained new road construction would not be covered by the American Rescue Plan Funds Act, only repairs to roads damaged as a result of construction or a water and sewer project.

Mr. Hebert requested a forecast of the amount of revenue reduction for 2021 based on year to date information.

Per an inquiry by Mr. Bennett in reference to revenue reductions, based on the year to date if needed in the future for St. Mary Parish, Mr. Hanagriff informed there is always a plan in place to balance the St. Mary Parish Budget.

Rev. Mathews questioned the future projects that will be submitted to the State for next year and the probability of receiving those funds. Mr. LaGrange explained that one of the major projects for consideration would be the consolidation of the Town of Baldwin's water system with Water and Sewer Commission No. 4.

Mr. LaGrange explained that the Council will have additional time to evaluate and discuss the proposed budget amendment through the budget process.

Mr. Bennett motioned to refer the Discussion and action relative to American Rescue Funds to the St. Mary Parish Council meeting, seconded by Mr. Duhon, motion carried with one opposition from Mr. Adams.

There being no further business, Mr. Ina moved for adjournment. Dr. Rink seconded the motion, which carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CRAIG MATHEWS, CHAIRMAN  
ADVISORY BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE