

Mayor D. Dwayne Tuggle called a meeting of the Town Council, continued from the June 9, 2021, session of the Amherst Town Council, to order on June 24, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street.

It was noted that a quorum was present as follows:

P	D. Dwayne Tuggle	P	Kenneth G. Bunch
P	Rachel A. Carton	P	Sharon W. Turner
P	Kenneth S. Watts	P	Janice N. Wheaton

Also present were the following staff members:

Sara Carter	Town Manager	Tracie Morgan	Office Manager/Treasurer
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The purpose of the meeting was for Town Council to discuss potential uses of anticipated American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA) to the Town of Amherst.

Town Manager Carter reported on the ARPA anticipated revenue, the Federal Government’s interim final rule, and possible use of ARPA funds.

The Town is set to receive 2.2 million from the ARPA to be delivered in two tranches, the first to be received June 28, 2021, with the second one year later. Costs must be incurred by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026.

Per the interim final rules, ARPA money cannot be used for debt service, pensions or establishing reserves but can be used to cover responses to the public health emergency, premium pay for workers who performed essential service during the pandemic, revenue loss, and critical infrastructure. Revenue loss can be used for a “salary swap” where salaries are paid using the federal money. The “swap” would then allow the Town to complete other projects not related to wastewater, such as purchase of a new police vehicle, purchase of either a bucket or lift vehicle, or in other ways deemed appropriate. Although ARPA money could be used for assisting individual households, it was noted that the town government does not have a social service department to help facilitate the outreach it would involve. Because the Town is not considered a qualified census tract, the Town is not able to facilitate the use of ARPA money for playgrounds or pools.

Further discussion on the matter was deferred.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M., until July 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

D. Dwayne Tuggle, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council