



City of Fredericksburg

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 ~ 1 P.M. LADY BIRD GOLF COURSE-CARDINAL ROOM

Jeryl Hoover, Mayor
Tony Klein, Councilmember
Bobby Watson, Councilmember

Sharon Joseph, Councilmember
Emily Kirchner, Councilmember
Clinton Bailey, City Manager

WRITTEN COMMENT

Comment Form #	Name	Address
1	Annette Bennett	
2	John and Anna Medeke	228 Green Oaks Loop
3	George Studor	
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City council budget issue only 9-14-22

Thank you for bringing the ARPA issue up for discussion.

ARPA is **not** about money – it **is** about local vs federal control. City council has made it about money by refusing to reject it outright, and then loosely placing the dollars in the budget process.

Since spring of 2020 over several hundred concerned citizens have fought against ARPA with legal notices and sworn affidavits. Dozens and dozens have commented at city council meeting over that period of time. Those people may not all be here today – but they have voiced their opinions and raised their objections as you have asked.

They have given you facts and figures over and over again – they have spoken about **WHY** this contract is bad and will result in the loss of local control over our government and way of life. I would encourage you to go back and read the affidavits and notices. I will not repeat them here.

The federal government has dangled the ARPA money in front of cities and states in order to get them hooked. Much as a drug dealer offers a teenager a “free taste” of cocaine. You know how that ends. In our case it would end with the addiction to federal money and loss of local control over our city with encroachment of the federal government into every aspect of our lives **FOREVER**. I ask you, is it worth it for some brick pavers or broadband?

Only by taking out the ARPA money and refunding it will department heads be able to decisively and realistically develop a budget that represents true expectations of income and yes, essential city services. This can be done without a tax increase.

With ARPA, the ends do not justify the means. Stand on moral, ethical and constitutional ground and send back all ARPA money

Shelley Goodwin

From: John Mendeke <XXXXXXXXXXXXXX@jamendeke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:17 PM
To: Citizen Comments
Subject: ARPA Funds

We urge the city council of Fredericksburg to immediately RETURN the ARPA funds to the US Treasury!! The Biden Administration continues to use public funds to control US cities and buy votes for its controlling political party!! Don't be part of this misuse of tax payer money!!. Send the ARPA funds bacl to the Treasury department. Keep Fredericksburg independent of government overreach. Respectfully Yours,

John and Anna Mendeke
228 Green Oaks Loop
Fredericksburg, Texas

The council should note that the period of performance associated with the \$2.848 in ARPA funds the city is receiving doesn't end until 31 December 2026. I believe the city can and should pay the money back to the Federal government as soon as possible in that 4 year window, so as to get out from being obligated to comply with all the executive orders and reporting requirements of the ARPA US Treasury program.

The city's handout on Tax Rate Scenarios and Ending Fund Balance Projections today shows that even with the No New Revenue (NNR) Tax Rate of 0.165262, they anticipate a \$1.788M Reserve at FYE 2023, even after setting aside 3 months of expenditures (\$5.82M) as reserves.

There is an unreasonably conservative assumption in these projections that the combination of sales taxes, HOT taxes, fees and licenses will only grow by 1%, when, in fact, these have actually grown by 6 to 8% every year for the last 3 years. At the city's 2022 mid-term budget review, a surplus of \$2M was reported for just the first 6months. If we continue that rate of surplus, it could have closer to \$4M in surplus this next year instead of the \$1.7M.

Given the risks associated with ARPA recipient obligations to the US Treasury and the proven over-reach of control by the federal government, Fredericksburg should budget to pay back the ARPA funds as soon as possible... because we can – and probably get a significant portion of it paid back this coming FY!