



Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee
 April 6, 2020 – 2:30 PM
 Council Chambers
 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

Yvonne McBride	Paul Livingston	Joe Walker	Dalhi Myers	Chakisse Newton
District 3	District 4	District 6	District 10	District 11

Committee Members Present: Paul Livingston, Chair; Yvonne McBride, Joe Walker, Dalhi Myers and Chakisse Newton

Others Present: Jim Manning, Mike King, Ashiya Myers, Ashley Powell, John Thompson, Leonardo Brown, James Hayes, Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Michelle Onley, Dale Welch, Clayton Voignier, Elizabeth McLean, Brad Farrar, Dante Roberts, Bryant Davis, Erica Wade, Kyle Holsclaw, Stacey Hamm, Kelly Fleming and Judy Carter

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 2:30 PM.
2. **Adoption of Agenda** – Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Livingston, Walker, Newton and Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **March 28, 2020** – Ms. Myer moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to defer this item until the next committee meeting.

In Favor: Livingston, Walker, Newton and Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **Criteria for Business/Agency Funding** – Ms. Newton inquired if the information that is going to be covered the information included in the updated response plan, and, if so, she requested staff to refer to where the information covered is located in the plan.

Guidelines (p. 78) – Ms. A. Myers stated this was modeled using feedback from the United Way and the City of Columbia to make sure we are in line with what is being done in the community. The guidelines address seniors, LMI households, and, per Council’s directive, a portion for the business community, which will determined once funding has been allocated toward that. We tried to make it as broad as possible so we reached not only the large organizations, but the small organizations. We defined small businesses using our small business definition, as included in the ordinance. LMI was based upon HUD’s definition. The process aligns similarly to what we used with the Allen-Benedict Court Relief Program and Discretionary Grants because we wanted to make sure we were not recreating the wheel.

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Ms. D. Myers stated there have been some relaxation, at the Federal level, of the LMI guidelines. Considering where we are, and who is need, did staff follow that guidance?

Ms. A. Myers stated staff pulled directly from the HUD website, based upon the recommendations for our area. They did not look at any other relaxed guidelines, which may have been put forth.

Ms. D. Myers stated she believes we need to be tracking the Federal guidance for this disaster.

Ms. A. Myers responded that modification can be made to the guidelines.

Ms. D. Myers stated she understands what staff is saying about wanting to be consistent with what is being done in the community for small businesses. She noted there may be businesses that do not fit those guidelines, which are Richland County registered businesses, and she would like to be sure we are using the information we have on businesses in the County to inform that guidance first. She inquired if we have taken a look at anything besides those two definitions of small business, and what the County traditionally defines.

Ms. A. Myers responded we based the small business definition on the Richland County ordinance.

Ms. D. Myers stated she is just making sure we have looked at the kind of businesses we have. She would think, in this crisis, we are trying to define people in, rather than out, so we might need to be more permissive.

Ms. A. Myers stated we request the Richland County business license, even if you are not a part of the small business program.

Ms. D. Myers stated she did not see a turnaround time for getting funds out to people.

Ms. A. Myers stated that will be based upon when Council approves moving forward. Then we can insert the correct date to get this turned around.

Ms. Powell stated the questions she will ask, following Ms. A. Myers outlining of the process, will be geared at nailing down the dates for turnaround.

Ms. Newton stated one of the things we talk about was the desire to make sure we were reaching businesses that may not be likely to apply for the Federal aid. Is there a part of this process you envision that will ensure, or, at least, help us reach some of those smaller small businesses, so they can receive add.

Ms. A. Myers stated the \$7M is the maximum, so she does not quite sure she understands the question. She inquired if we are looking to target our release of this information toward the smaller businesses.

Ms. Newton responded, for example, if she is a small business that makes \$6,999,000 she might be more aware of some of the resources available to assist me as a small business, and she might have greater access to them. Her question is, are there any particular structures we have put in place that would encourage businesses that are on the very small side that might not traditionally apply for this type of assistance to receive it.

Mr. Livingston inquired, along those same lines, how do we ensure we reach the “mom & pop” businesses.

Ms. Powell stated under the program definitions you will note that we are targeting businesses of 50 persons or less, which addresses the scale of the businesses.



Ms. A. Myers stated the grant application was modeled based upon what was used with Allen-Benedict Court, as well as, Discretionary Grant. The grant application's questions are similar, if not identical, to those used by our other community partners, as well as, the City of Columbia. We wanted to ensure that we got information that may be requested later for reimbursement purposes. We tried to keep it as brief as possible so as not to overburden the applicants with paperwork, but to also make sure we were capturing the information necessary for reimbursement purposes.

Ms. McBride inquired if the funding is first come, first serve, or is there another process.

Ms. A. Myers responded she believes Ms. Powell is going to ask questions to further nail that down to ensure that we are aligning with what the committee intends, in terms of the application process.

The agreement is modeled after the Allen-Benedict Court Relief Program, as well as, Discretionary Grant Program, to ensure that all the organizations that receive grant funding abide by the set criteria, and that we obtain all information necessary for reporting and potential reimbursement.

Ms. D. Myers stated, for clarification, the agreement is to make sure they are abiding by the grant criteria.

Ms. A. Myers responded it is to make sure they are abiding with reporting requirements, the expenditures are eligible, and they are staying in line with the program proposed.

Ms. D. Myers stated, for clarification, so when we say we are making sure that they abide by the requirements, we are targeting payroll and rent expenses.

Ms. A. Myers stated we have included economic relief, food services for seniors and low-moderate income households, and/or other needs, which fall under the rent and utilities.

Ms. D. Myers stated she is speaking specifically to the small businesses, and those requirements are narrowly defined as rental and payroll assistance.

Ms. A. Myers responded that is what she understood the directive of the committee was, as their desire toward assistance for businesses.

Mr. Brown stated there have been some questions the committee has been asking that we believe speak to the information we want to get from you.

Ms. Powell stated staff recommends establish an applicant deadline, with regularly scheduled intermediate review. This is designed so we can award qualified community partners on a first come, first served basis. The question for the committee is, what are your thoughts on the recommendations, or do you prefer a set deadline, and one set date for committee review after all applications have been submitted.

Mr. Livingston stated he would prefer not to wait until all of them are submitted, but with that said, he has to be very confident the information has gotten out to everyone. He would hate for it to be first come, first serve, and we do not do a good job of getting information out and people miss it because they did not get the information.

Ms. Powell proposed, in advance of the next Council meeting, we could sit down and talk about a communication plan for getting all of the applications, guidelines, etc. out. She is recommending we utilize the library, as our primary communication partner, as they are a trusted resource who is used to disseminating information widely, and very quickly. We could outline that for full Council, so you could have some assurance the information would go out in a way that is agreeable to the body.



Ms. D. Myers stated the Federal government has rolling deadlines. You could have an April 15, April 30, May 15, etc., deadline. We keep going, and giving out money, as quickly as we could so that we do not lose these businesses, and we do not hold anybody up waiting until the last among them gets an application in.

Ms. Powell responded that is similar to staff's recommendation and we would be happy to implement a rolling deadline.

Ms. Newton stated she was under the impression the recommendation that staff was making was for a rolling deadline, but it sounds like there may be some differences. So she is clear, she requested the difference between having a rolling deadline and staff's recommendation.

Ms. Powell stated it is essentially the same thing. The terminology is different, but that is exactly what staff is proposing.

Ms. Newton stated she agrees with staff's recommendation that we have a rolling deadline. The whole purpose of doing this is to get out funding, as quickly as possible, to businesses that need it. If our criteria is good, those businesses applying, and ultimately receive awards from us, are those that truly need it.

Ms. McBride stated, for clarification, there will be several deadlines, and not just one.

Ms. Powell responded in the affirmative. The second question is, along the lines of knowing that we want to ensure that people are vetted appropriately, but funds are dispersed, and put into the hands that need them, as quickly as possible, is it the desire of the committee, that staff implement the program, as outlined in the documentation you received. Or, would you prefer that we continue vetting people on the rolling deadline basis, come back to the committee, and subsequently Council, for approval before releasing funds.

Ms. McBride stated we have delayed everything so terribly that she would suggest initiating the first process, and give a report on that before we begin on the second process to ensure that it does not need to be tweaked.

Ms. Powell stated, for clarification, we should go ahead and implement the process, get to the first rolling deadline, and report out to the committee on how that process went and tweak it, if necessary, before we get to the second deadline.

Ms. McBride stated that is her recommendation.

Ms. Newton stated she concurs with Ms. McBride's recommendation.

Ms. D. Myers stated, this goes back to her earlier question, she did not see any response period required for applicants. Once they turn in their application, do we want to institute a mandatory period of turnaround, so they know how long they will be waiting, and we ensure we are setting up a system that is structured for success, so the applicants do not go out of business waiting?

Ms. Powell stated that information is currently not included. We wanted to get some feedback about how we would roll out the process from the committee prior to do that. Now that we know the preference is a rolling deadline, we would establish a schedule that says when those rolling deadlines would be, when staff would perform reviews by, etc.

Ms. D. Myers stated it would be her preference that we would set a maximum number of days, once an application is in, for it to be reviewed and a check to go out the door. Rather, the other way around. She would like for it to be that Richland County has a policy that we are going to review it in this number of days, and you



are going to hear back from us and get a check in this number days, so there is some certainty for the business owner, and for the potential grantee, to know they can, or cannot, plan to provide these services because we are in a period where people are operating on \$0 and do not have the luxury of time that we might ordinarily like. She might suggest a 3 day window to review it, and once it is reviewed and approved, another 3 day window to get somebody a check.

Ms. Powell stated the request makes sense. They are trying to make sure we are conversing with all persons who would be a part of this process before we say something is feasible, and turn around and it is not. We do understand the need for immediacy.

Mr. Brown stated a part of this conversation would include Finance, for the check cutting portion, and we do not have Finance on this call. After this meeting today, we will assemble those people together and look to have something back to you by tomorrow evening, in terms of a general process.

Ms. D. Myers stated she does not plan to vote on a process that does not include some bright line guarantee to recipients of what they can expect the County to do because this is emergency money.

Ms. Newton stated she understands why we would want to talk all of the people involved before we offer the tentative guidelines on how long our turnaround will be. She noted, you mentioned, this process is modeled after what we did with Allen-Benedict Court, and after having conversations with the City of Columbia. She inquired, for comparison, the turnaround time looked like in those processes, if they are applicable.

Mr. Hayes responded, in terms of the overall discretionary grant period, and specifically Allen-Benedict Court, because we had the criteria in place, the Grants Coordinator could take a request one week and have it reviewed and a check out the door the next week. Now, the application guidelines, does tell you that we have 30 days to approve, but most of the time we are able to turn it around within a week.

Ms. Powell responded that nothing staff reviewed, from the City, had that level of detail in it.

Mr. Brown stated he is supposed to be meeting with the City to coordinate our efforts with them, as well as the United Way. We do not have any other details because we were going to get our information today, with the committee, then go out to our other partners to ensure we are reaching more people, and not the same people.

Mr. Hayes stated, for the discretionary grants, because those items were already vetted by a committee, the only thing we were doing was making sure the expenditures they were submitting we applicable to the guidelines, so we did not have to do any vetting. In terms of Allen-Benedict, you had already approved the groups, and we were just cutting checks.

Mr. Livingston stated, his goal would be, from the time someone submits their application until the time they receive a check, a week.

Ms. Powell stated, again, we would need to run it by all people internally that be involved in that process. We will certainly reach for a week, but we tell you at tomorrow's Council meeting, whether or not we can obtain that goal.

5. **Employee Needs/Costs** – Mr. Brown stated there have been some questions about people requesting overtime. One of the thing we talked about was making sure that we are scheduling appropriately, so we only accrue overtime as a result of our response, and not just because we are working people more. Other than the projected overtime costs he shared with the committee, he does not have any additional departments that have requested an additional need for overtime. We do not have any new overtime information, other than what we



projected out to you earlier, with those various departments being the Coroner's Office, the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Services and the Magistrate's Offices.

Mr. Livingston stated, for him, it would include any need for additional staff. It is important that we cover that and stop us from getting things accomplished that we need to get accomplished.

Ms. D. Myers inquired if there has been any responses from staff about external assistance to capture some of these other avenues of providing assistance, or creative uses of the Federal funding.

Ms. Powell stated we have heard back from TetraTech and the early indication is they can assist the County in whatever way we may need.

Ms. McBride stated she has not heard an update on the Detention Center. She knows that is a stressful situation, and she does not know to what degree what is going on. In particular, she is not only concerned about the residents there, but the staff.

Mr. Brown stated, in general, Mr. Myers has not expressed any inability to move forward, or any lack of resources to do the job at the Detention Center.

Dr. Thompson stated Mr. Myers has not expressed any concern with his operations. In fact, he is in the midst of assisting Bond Court to expand what they are doing with videoconferencing. There is no interruption in service, but making sure that we continue to do what we need to do to protect our staff members, as well as, the detainees in the facility.

Mr. Byrd stated the only request he has received from the Detention Center is for PPE, and they are on the list with everyone else.

Ms. McBride stated, for clarification, they have all the cleaning products and PPEs they need.

Mr. Byrd stated he does not know if they do in the long-term, but that is why we have them on the list for additional supplies.

6. **Method to Acquire State/Federal Funding and Resources** – Mr. Brown stated we were able to receive a response back from TetraTech. They have identified that they can assist us with potentially securing additional funding, and resources, so we will be utilizing them as a part of the process.

Ms. McBride inquired if we have heard anything from our lobbyist.

Mr. Brown responded we have not heard anything from our lobbyist. The last conversation we had, we were in between lobbyist. One was an old contract, which had expired, and one was a contract that we did not approve.

Ms. McBride stated, technically, we do not have a contract in place with a lobbyist, at this time.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Livingston inquired, if we can draft a scope of service for TetraTech, so we have some idea what we are looking for from them.

Mr. Brown stated Community Planning and Development is already working through the process.



Ms. Newton stated, when we had those conversations with TetraTech, and they said they were able to help us, there is the, we have skills to do what you want, and then there is the, we have the skills and capacity to help you do what you want. She wanted to be clear TetraTech was saying yes to both of those, and if someone could give a timeframe and next steps would be to begin working with them.

Ms. Powell responded TetraTech did verify they had both the skills and capacity to assist the County. We previously had Mr. Beekman onsite with us, in response to disaster recovery. We are told that he could return. She is looking at a draft task order that starts on April 20th.

Ms. Newton inquired if it starts on April 20th because that is the soonest we could go through the process, or the soonest they are available.

Ms. Powell stated, she believes, it starts on April 20th because TetraTech was giving us some time to get the information we needed to further define the scope, but she will have further conversations to see how quickly we could engage.

Mr. Manning stated, when we got hit with the flood, we did not have any idea what we needed to get FEMA funding, Federal resources, etc. We just knew we had a flood. TetraTech showed up in town, along with some other national companies, who come in when you get hit with a disaster. We did not tell them a thing about what we needed. They came in and told us what we needed, and what work they did with FEMA. Then, we structured a contract, and paid them. Somehow, it seems this is reversed, and that we are now the FEMA experts. We are now the Federal government experts. We are now the emergency situation experts, and we, by April 20th, are going to craft what we need, or want, them to do for us. He knows there were 2, possibly 3, companies that flew representatives in, and were selling us their product, when we knew nothing about what we needed, in terms of the services. He does not know where this entire disconnect is, right now, but it appears to him, this is nothing near where he started by asking if the people who come in after tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, etc., and try to sell you on what they can do for you.

Mr. Livingston stated, when he was referring to the scope of services, he was not talking about Council developing a proposal. His intent was to get with TetraTech and have them tell us what services they can provide for us, so we will know what we are paying for.

Ms. D. Myers stated, in part, she agrees with what Mr. Manning is asking. Her question, earlier on, was if we could get some experts in to tell us what all the Federal options are right now, and what they can do to help us exploit those options to the County's benefit. She likes TetraTech, and has worked with them as a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee, and they have done a spectacular job. She agrees with Mr. Manning that there will be other companies who may be more aggressive than TetraTech, or who may better understand the Federal regulations, as it relates to financial situations. It might be in our best interest to look at what those companies can also provide.

Mr. Manning requested clarification on if it is staff or TetraTech that is driving the process.

Ms. Powell responded that TetraTech is driving the process. What they are proposing to us is based on the work they did on the 2015 Flood. It is up to us to say if we want the entirety of what they are proposing to us, or if we want a limited scope. They are just looking for some high level guidance on what they would be doing, but they are experts.

Mr. Manning stated, his understanding, back then, was what they were doing for us was what they were going to capture for money, and then, they, with the money that came in from then Feds, was really what was paying them to do everything that got done. It really was not like we were hiring them. We were contracting with them because they were the ones that were going to exploit the Federal government for money. Again, he does not know why we might not see if the other firms that do this might not have an interest, if it is not too late.



Ms. McBride stated the reason she asked about our Federal lobbyist was because right now the money is out there. We need someone to go out, provide us the details, and tell us how we can get the money. She does not know what kind of high-level guidance they need other than interpreting the Federal laws, and getting the resources here.

Mr. Manning the other company that he remembers talking to him about their services was Bates Tactical Disaster Recovery.

Ms. D. Myers inquired, for clarification, if we are relying exclusively on TetraTech, or are we looking at other options.

Ms. Powell stated staff was already doing both of those things. She had Mr. Voignier reach out to TetraTech, and she had Ms. Wladischkin take a look at everyone who initially responded for the 2015 Flood and we are reviewing the services they could offer.

Ms. D. Myers inquired about companies that might not have responded because they do not do floods, but they do financial services. She wants to ensure that we are narrowing the net before we get the right people at the table because business recovery is different than a flood.

Ms. Powell stated she did have Ms. Wladischkin to do some research for us, and thus far she has not had any success in locating companies that specifically provide the services of securing grant funds, but she will continue to do research. If there are any suggestions the committee has, we will look at those companies, as well.

7. **Communications & PR** – Ms. Newton stated, semantically, she would suggest changing PR to Public Information because that is really what we need to do, in terms of getting out information about health and safety to our constituents, but also making sure we are getting the word out about our grant and financial support opportunities. It was her understanding that someone was going to come back to us and tell us what we are going to do to get the word out about the financial assistance we are offering.

Mr. Brown responded, he thinks, it is really a general conversation about us putting together some information that we could get out. Ms. Powell mentioned utilizing our library partners as immediate outlet. The library is known for having a good outreach, which is larger and may be more robust than our internal process.

Ms. McBride stated, if the Council is ever able to make any decision, regarding what we are doing, she would like to make sure that we are able to send a mailing, with resources that we have available, because not everyone is on the computer or receives the newspaper. She stated the White House sent a postcard about safe distancing, washing your hands, and other healthy habits. She would be happy to work with staff on this endeavor.

Ms. D. Myers expressed her desire to assist with this endeavor also.

Mr. Livingston inquired if we are alright with what we have for our residents, in regard to the website.

Ms. D. Myers stated, she believes, we need some more aggressive public information and outreach efforts. We need to be actively doing a little bit more. She thinks the website is a fine way to communicate, but we need to be doing more aggressive communication.

Ms. Newton stated she knows there is information, in the packet, in terms of the partnership with the library, in terms of doing a tele-town hall, which she thinks is a great idea. Then, one of the things that might be



interesting to consider, to Ms. McBride's point, because, the fact of the matter is, there are many people who do not rely on social media for their main sources of information, but when we look at some of the assistance and support that we are providing, if we want to look at the few places we are allowed to go, are there ways to have information, for example, at grocery stores. She really appreciates us facilitating that conversation because there are a lot of people who are being missed.

Ms. McBride stated, if we could get the forms, we could send the information to our districts, but she would like to have some good factual information about what the County is providing, and other issues we may want to add.

Ms. D. Myers stated she likes the town hall idea, but she thinks the convener of the town hall has to be the County more so than the library. She is happy to partner with all groups, and she thinks that is great idea, but there has to be a little more leadership coming from the County, in a time that is this critical for the people we represent.

8. **Sheriff's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant, CESF** – Mr. Livingston stated you should have received a request for us to approve the Sheriff's receipt of the emergency supplemental funding grant. The reason this is on this agenda is for us to take a vote to forward it to full Council, so it will appear on the April 7th Council agenda.

Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve this item.

In Favor: Livingston, Walker, Myers, Newton and McBride

9. **Critical Needs Areas** – Mr. Brown stated there is one area that we have talked about, and have not revisited, which is a recommendation from staff to consider waiving all late penalties for payment that are made to the County for at least a period of 60 days. He stated we are not limiting what those items are.

Mr. Livingston inquired if we have a cost on that. If you recall, we talked about keeping up with costs, as we move forward.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to approve staff's recommendation to waive late fees for up to 60 days.

Ms. D. Myers inquired about which fees we are considering to waive.

Mr. Brown responded he is referring to any fees the County charges, where there is a late payment assessed.

Ms. D. Myers requested the enumerated items being considered.

Mr. Brown stated, for example, business license fees.

Ms. D. Myers inquired if there is a list of them.

Mr. Brown stated he does not have a complete list.

Ms. D. Myers stated, she is not opposed to it, she would just like to know what the fees are we are suggested to waive.

Ms. McBride stated, it was her understanding, late fees are additional fees for being late. It is not like we are not charging them for critical needs.



Mr. Livingston stated we use that for the budget every year, so you need to know how much it is.

Ms. D. Myers stated she agrees with it. She would just like to tell citizens specifically what it is we are voting to waive.

Mr. Brown responded that he will provide the list.

In Favor: Livingston, McBride, Newton Myers and Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

10. **Overall Financial Structure Outlook** – Ms. McBride stated we are getting a lot of requests for financial assistance, and she is skeptical about approving all of these requests, and how it is going to impact us overall because it is not a part of the funding that we have already projected. She thinks there needs to be a process in place, in terms of the financial structure, we use in determining how we are going to handle all of these requests that are coming in. We recently received one from Historic Columbia, and another for the Health Cooperative. She is sure there are others coming, and she is not sure how critical they are, or what the overall impact on the County's financial structure.

Mr. Hayes stated the robust revenue projection we were looking at, at the end of January, is going to take a hit. The extent of that we will not know about for about 30 days. From an expenditure side, he thinks we will come in well under budget, even with worse case scenarios. He imagines expenditures will be higher than originally planned because of some added expenditures associated with the Coronavirus, but he anticipates, the expenditures to come in under what we have budgeted. The revenue is going to be the true story. He and his staff are trying to look at our revenue for February and March. It is going to be critical, once we get more information at the end of April, to make a determination on where we are on revenue. As we take a look at that over the next 30 days, he will be updating Mr. Brown, and, of course, they will update the committee and Council.

Ms. Newton stated, looking at the Council packet for tomorrow, one of the things we are going to be doing is talking about the budget calendar. Looking ahead, she understands, there are projections you will still have to do, based on revenue coming in, but we can all tell that we are facing a double dip. On the one hand there is going to be a request for higher expenditures, than planned, while we are dealing with decreased revenues. Outside of some of those projections, what, if any, thinking has been done in terms of how we might approach the budget process differently. For example, are we looking at freezing budget lines for the rest of the year? What, if any, additional steps, besides putting together this model, has been contemplated to help us weather this storm.

Mr. Brown stated one of the things we talked about, even before this budgetary crisis, and pandemic, is more appropriately aligning budgets with true expenditures. Going back and looking at what departments have spent, and identifying those true needs for expenditures vs. what is being spent. That is going to be even more crucial now that we are facing decreased revenues, and increased expenditures. That will require Council stepping in and giving some strong handed guidance, across the board, for all related departments.

Ms. D. Myers inquired, if we are going to consider, as a Council, across the board freezes, so that we do not end up in a worse position. Have we asked staff to give us any alternating concepts of how we might address this, other than to just wait and see? She is a little concerned that we need to be more proactive.

Mr. Livingston responded that is a Council question, and we should consider coming up with a motion.

Ms. Newton inquired as to what staff specifically needs from Council.



Mr. Brown stated, when we make this decision, whether it is to freeze, reduce or to hold the line, that those conversations and messages are echoed in the form of Council votes that speak to that, so that Administration can carry out those decisions in a way that lets departments know this is something that must happen, and is Council's will, more so than just an administrative request, or thought process.

Ms. Newton inquired if there is something staff needs right now, or are we just being put on notice that moment is coming.

Mr. Brown stated he is putting Council on notice that moment is coming. As we prepare for that, you can begin having those conversations when people are asking you for various things.

Mr. Livingston stated right after Mr. Hayes provides us what he can, at the end of April, we need to be prepared to start moving.

Ms. D. Myers stated she would like some current information on what expenses are down because we are all working from home. She would like more current numbers on the projections, as opposed to the actuals. She stated we could look at it for the end of March. She is a little concerned about waiting. She would like to be working on the information, as of end March, rather than end April.

Mr. Hayes stated he was more specifically talking about the revenue side because there is a lot of uncertainty. He wanted to see how the revenue would track over the next 30 days. Now, on the expenditures side, we would be able to put some things in action, right now. Personnel costs are fixed expenditures. He stated, in conversation with Mr. Brown, there may be some operating costs that departments do not have to spend, and you can discourage departments not to spend those funds, so as to make sure we stay below the red line. To ensure that we come in below that red line, there may have to be some conversation from a committee, or Council, standpoint to say these are some operating expenditures that will have to be frozen, so we can stay below the red line.

Ms. D. Myers stated she will provide some motions to that effect.

11. **PRISMA Collaboration** – Ms. D. Myers stated the information they were providing has to do with readiness, on the part of PRISMA, and preparing for what, in their opinion, a surge. The overarching thing she got, from the latest call with PRISMA, was that they are very concerned with people staying put, and not doing unnecessary movement that would bring us into contact with each other in a way that continues to spread this disease for which we do not have either treatment or cure. PRISMA has done the best that they could do, in terms of preparing the hospital, and preparing alternate sites, to be ready for this. Unlike many other places, they had adequate, and in some cases, more than adequate amounts of PPEs for all of the employees, and those coming into the hospital. She knows that Mr. Brown and Dr. Thompson were working with them to ensure they had adequate staging.

Ms. McBride stated they sent out a letter to the media saying there would be a layoff of staff. She inquired if they mentioned, in your conversations, the impact this would have on their services, and unemployment.

Mr. Livingston stated the focus was on elective surgery personnel because those services are not being provided currently.

Ms. McBride stated Dr. Thompson sent out information on some possible site visits, but she assumes no decisions have been made about utilizing Richland County facilities for emergency hospitals.

Dr. Thompson stated the meeting was more than just PRISMA. He received a request from the US Corps of Engineers, because the SC Emergency Management Division is interested in finding facilities for overflow for



healthcare system. We met with the SC Corps of Engineers, the SCEMD, a representative from PRISMA, and an inspector from DHEC at the Haverty's building. It is his understanding they have collected the information, and they will send that to the decision makers to determine if they are going to utilize the building.

Ms. McBride stated the County has not done anything about the stay-in-place ordinance. She knows tomorrow we are supposed to deliberate on that, but she finds it interesting this committee did not make a recommendation. She is concerned about the positions we are taking, given that all of the national public health professionals have encouraged stay-in-place ordinance or order from the Governor. Every governor, with the exception of 8, have issued one. She finds it irresponsible that Council has not saw fit to make a decision regarding this.

Ms. D. Myers stated she wholeheartedly agrees with Ms. McBride, but she thinks it is not on the committee agenda because we are dealing with at the Council level.

Ms. Newton requested clarification on which items are being forwarded to the Council meeting.

Mr. Livingston stated the items to forwarded are: (1) Sheriff's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant, CESF and (2) Critical Needs – Waiver of Fees Recommendation.

12. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:08 PM.