RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0045

A resolution establishing the framework, guiding principles, and timeline for the deployment of funds received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused tremendous loss of life and unprecedented economic and community disruption across the country, and Spokane has not been immune; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted, and the President signed into law, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), which will provide over $80 million in recovery funds for the City of Spokane in addition to more than $100 million dollars for other local jurisdictions across Spokane County, including the County itself, our neighboring cities and towns, and the local school districts; and

WHEREAS, to equitably and effectively utilize these resources to help Spokane bounce back as soon as we can and in the best way possible for everyone in Spokane, the City Council intends to exercise its budgetary and fiscal oversight duties to establish the framework, guiding principles, and timeline for the disbursement of the ARPA funds to be received by the City of Spokane.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Spokane will equitably utilize recovery funds received by the American Rescue Plan Act for the following four main purposes:

Purpose 1: Replenish lost City government revenues due to the pandemic to drive catalytic investments and to restore COVID-curtailed services that will move the city forward and increase our resiliency;

Purpose 2: Reach out to community partner organizations to fund initiatives that will remedy the damage caused by the pandemic with investments that will support future growth and opportunities;

Purpose 3: Resiliency for Spokane – as we bounce back, we must make significant investments in forward-thinking initiatives that will create long-term, sustainable growth and stability for the City of Spokane and all its community members; and

Purpose 4: Relief for residents and businesses that have been left behind by other relief programs.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City of Spokane hereby establishes a Recovery Plan Work Group that will develop implementation proposals and partnerships with City Departments, other government entities, and nonprofit organizations for the effective delivery of funds to the community in alignment with the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the guidance published by the U.S. Department of the
Treasury. The initial Recovery Plan Work Group shall consist of Council Members Stratton and Wilkerson, Council President Beggs, Mayor Woodward (or her designee), and Chief Financial Officer Tonya Wallace as voting members, and City Administrator Johnnie Perkins and City Council Policy Director Brian McClatchey as ex-officio advisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals and organizations are encouraged to suggest specific proposals for consideration by the Mayor and City Council to consider; and the full City Council will decide which proposals will be forwarded to the Recovery Plan Work Group for implementation planning and partnership development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that “Recovery Plan Workgroup” be added to the attachment to Resolution 2021-0003, titled “Annual Appointments of Council Members to Boards and Commissions,” passed by the City Council January 11, 2021, with Council President Breean Beggs, Council Member Betsy Wilkerson and Council Member Karen Stratton listed as the appointed members.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Recovery Plan Work Group will make implementation recommendations to the full Council on a rolling basis, with the first set due to Council no later than September 1, 2021. Additional recommendations shall be presented to Council no later than November 30, 2021, August 1, 2022, and November 1, 2022.

PASSED by the City Council this 7th day of June, 2021.

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
Assistant City Attorney