**PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT (PSG) COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL PSG COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Ed Ball Building, 8th Floor Board Room 851**

**August 31, 2022 – 3:00 PM**

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| **Committee Meeting Attendance** | | | |
| **X** | **Bob Baldwin- Chair** | **X** | **Chester Spellman** |
| **X** | **Beth Mixson- Vice Chair** | **X** | **Dogan Tozoglu** |
| **X** | **Jaclyn Blair** | **X** | **Marcie Turner** |
| **X** | **James Coggin** | **X** | **Mary Pat Wallmeyer (Zoom)** |
| **X** | **Ryan Ertel** | **X** | **Courtney Weatherby-Hunter (Zoom)** |
| **X** | **Tameiko Grant** | **-** | **VACANT** |
| **E** | **Brad Goodwin** | **-** | **VACANT** |
| **X** | **Jackie Perry** |  |  |

**Quorum Present:*****Yes***

**Staff**: John Snyder, Ashleigh Brew, Kendra Mervin, Pat Hughes & Najera Stevenson- Office of Grants & Compliance

Reece Wilson-Office of General Counsel

Lawsikia Hodges, Deputy General Counsel-Office of General Counsel

Dr. Moreland, Deputy Chief Administrator-Mayor’s Office

Joey Greive, Finance & Administration/CFO

Matt Carlucci-City Council At-Large Group 4 Member

1. **Welcome & Introduction of PSG Council Members- Mr. Baldwin**

Mr. Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Each PSG Council member both in person and virtually introduced themselves as well as staff present.

1. **Administration Update-FY 2023 Second Round Application Revised Process**

\* **Kendra Mervin, Grants Administrator-Office of Grants & Contract Compliance**

Ms. Mervin stated, from the last meeting, several questions were raised when I discussed the proposed revised application process for the PSG applications. Therefore, I invited some representatives from our administration for this special meeting. When Mayor Curry proposed an increase to the PSG funding for this coming year (2022-2023) from $3.6 million to $6 million, and have a second round of approvals, more feedback came from the City Council, and I want to work collaboratively to get resolutions. I invited the administration to go over these issues and provide insight into your role as the PSG council.

\* **Dr. Charles Moreland, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer-Mayor’s Office**

Dr. Moreland stated, it’s an honor and privilege to be here, and this group does an amazing job. There is no hidden agenda by the mayor’s office relating to the increase that is proposed, the goal is listening to the City Council members for those agencies that had an interest in being funded who were Direct Appropriation, and we want to accommodate the City Council. The budget increased from $3.6 million dollars to $6 million dollars. They discussed various increases for 2019-2022 and there is an 8.63% annual increase each year in PSG. During this 3-year period a total of $390 million dollars have went out to the community as investments. This includes funding through other city departments such as Finance and Administration, Neighborhoods, Parks & Recreation, Kids Hope Alliance, and Office of Economic Development. These are in addition to the considerable number of investments that we made to the PSG Council. We want to do exactly what our City Council members asked for, which is increase the funding and provide money. We want to increase the pool of applications and increase the budget.

1. **Role of PSG Council-FY2023 2nd Round Application Revised Process**

**\* Lawsikia Hodges, Deputy General Counsel-Office of General Counsel**

Ms. Hodges explained the role of the PSG Council as it relates to the second-round application process. Ms. Hodges elaborated on Chapter 80, which gives the detail about a composition of the board, and Chapter 118 part 8 which is more specific about Public Service Grants. She stated these are ordinances that were approved by the City Council, so this is considered law. The City Council as a governing body can go in and amend by standalone orders, or they can do it by any board such as our budget, which is what we have here that’s being proposed.

City Council is set as our governing body of our government. The legislative body is completely empowered to do that, therefore from a PSG council member, you know standpoint. We have current law that’s on the books today that tells you what their duties are in those three. There’s one annual application, that’s what the current law says and those are what your duties are.

Because your governing body really controls you on a subset of it for the supportive board, it means that you serve at the pleasure of the City Council in terms of what your responsibilities are.

Today, the way the process work is that we have a standalone ordinance, 2022-509 that is traveling through the City’s legislative process. There will be an opportunity for the Finance Committee to go in and make amendments to that bill. All of that is driven by recommendations of the Finance committee, and it goes to a larger Body of City Council members, while at the same time seeking councils’ approval.

If the board wanted to express its will or articulate to the City Council and to eliminate a lot of time. I suggest that you call for a support resolution or a nonsupport resolution. Also, include your thoughts on what’s currently being proposed so that the council has a little bit more insight with that as it’s traveling through the finance process. With any of this legislation there are standing committees, budget matters must go through the Finance Committee on the 2022-509. The Finance committee will look at this bill, and any proposed amendments to the bill, and settle in some way to give a recommendation to the large City Council.

Question: Chapter 118.811-when presented to the City Council, how is the vote handled?

Answer: Larger City Council matters must go to the Finance Committee; they look at the bill and give recommendation to the larger City Council. The final decision is done on a Tuesday with City Council. Chapter 118.811 the City Council can waive any ledger; this must be done by 2/3 vote. The floor can amend, or additional amendments can happen during the meeting.

Question: Will every year have 2 sets of applications or is this just a onetime event?

Answer: 2022-059 PSG ordinance bill is filed; it has not been sent to the Finance committee yet. It hasn’t been proposed yet.

1. **PSG Council Revised Process for FY 2023 Discussion-Mr. Baldwin**

Mr. Baldwin stated we need to have a resolution for those who are in support or non-support.

If passed, are we able to make decisions how the 2nd round will be handled?

\*Matt Carlucci stated I want a collaboration of everyone, the City Council has not been talking behind closed doors. He originally wanted $10 million, the City Council has nothing to say or make opinions about the two rounds.

\*Bob Baldwin stated the situation is about how go to where we are regarding the surplus.

\*Dr Turner stated Meals on Wheels and other programs are no longer funded by PSG. Not objecting to additional funding, just want to make sure that the funding is done properly and fair.

\* Beth Mixson looked at the budget (page 18) and read agencies that were geared out. She stated, looking at the amount of the budget, this gives less total funding to agencies.

\*James Coggin asked what is the feedback and need that is driving this request?

\*Dr. Moreland responded that several council members are interested in seeing an increase in the application pool. He added comments from the City Council.

01/2/22-many agencies are not able to get funding needed, and they are moving Direct Contracts to PSG, this will raise the level. It will also reduce the number of Direct Contracts, and they should be eligible for PSG.

01/31/22-we addressed needs for grand funding pool.

2/2/22-Administration will do their best to hit the request which will be $2 million more.

\*Bob Baldwin asked why did the 2nd round come after the deadline of the funding cycle?

\*Joey Greive responded; it didn’t take place until the budget was being created. However, the early discussions were done.

\*Bob Baldwin asked why did agencies have line items funding in the past?

\*Joey Greive responded; not all agencies are watching City Council meetings and wasn’t aware of additional fundings. The goal is to have more people involved in PSG funding. $6 million will be reviewed as a baseline for next year. This is a one-time process.

\*Beth Mixson stated, we have more applications than we can fund. I am still not satisfied or not understanding.

\*Joey Greive responded; we know each year some people will be cut, so funding was increased.

\*Jackie Perry states, I thought the increase was to help agencies so they wouldn’t have to compete. Understanding, is the increase for prior Direct Funding agencies and those who qualify for PSG funding?

\*Joey Greive responded; Yes

\*James Coggin asked will this defund some programs.

\*Joey Greive responded; programs not funded in round one will get funded in round 2. Timing issues was allowed because they had extra funding. This will be a one-time issue. There are an estimated 30 new entities coming in.

\*Bob Baldwin asked if City Council does not pass, what happens?

\*Ms. Hodges responded, it’s my understanding that this has not been to the finance committee for discussion yet. So, when any amendments come up, you provide a bullet that’s been talked about. It would be at the finance committee meeting where those amendments were being proposed “in that meeting”.

1. **Public Comments-Bob Baldwin**

Mr. Baldwin stated, I’d like us to address two situations, one resolution about support or, a resolution of putting it on the table for discussion of this ordinance. Then we will take a vote of support or non-support. Then what is our recommendation of how the 2nd round will be handled?

\*Matt Carlucci stated, I appreciate everyone in the mayor’s office. I have been advocating for more money. As a PSG liaison I saw agencies with high scores who did not get money because the funds ran out. So, I work with the Mayor for PSG to get more money. Several agencies hardly ever get money but were worthy of it. Now, Direct Appropriations are eligible for PSG money. I think there should be one round, and everybody is on the same playing field.

There should be an open application process again for those that are not used to the PSG process, give a deadline of 10/15/2022. Two rounds would not be the fairest process of scoring organizations. I believe that the finance committee should take the lead of this council and come up with their own ideas. One round is the level of playing field that we all should be playing on.

\*Jackie Culver-Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center stated I hope it is a fair and equitable process that we all applied for.

\*Dierdre Conner-Nonprofit Center of N.W. Florida thanked the Mayor and PSG for the increase. She asked what is the proposed $2 million based on?

Mr. Baldwin responded; the administration will get back with the answer.

\*Jeff Witt-Prisoners of Christ stated, it is clear that Direct Appropriations was going to be set. They spoke about the $5 million in the budget that was taken out. Now, there is only $3 million added. Line-item funding for Direct Appropriations was going to be granted.

\*Paul Bell-Feeding NE Florida said that he received negative comments about their organization being a part of the recipients for funding. We have a lot of people who can’t afford food. Funding for food/rent has been on the decrease since the pandemic, there is 35% less in food donations from stores, etc. We put in an emergency request, and we do not receive yearly money from COJ. They depend on PSG grants and are grateful.

\*Bill Haley-Family Foundations, CEO stated the increase from $3.5 million to $6 million is a home run. I feel disappointment because of the changes in the process currently taking place. I haven’t heard the answer for doing two rounds.

\*Marcus Haile-Literacy Alliance of NE Florida stated I have been a part of the process for the last four years and it’s been wonderful. The goal to me has been met.

\*Jans Kary- (Grant Writer for many organizations) stated I feel like this comes down to the Direct Appropriations. In that they were contacted and told that they should apply for PSG funding. I am in favor of keeping one round of approvals. This new round is not transparent, I want a more ethical single round as previously proposed.

\*Ann Kelley-Daniel Memorial stated take $2 million off, that many people that are not funded. She expressed considerations regarding fundings process.

Much discussion was then done from the floor regarding the reasons, and issues for the 2nd round process.

1. **PSG Council vote on revised process for FY 2023-Mr. Baldwin**

Mr. Baldwin stated, we have the ability to support or reject. It was motioned by Beth Mixson, 2nd by Dr. Turner for council members to not support the proposal, 1 opposed, motion carried. Kendra Mervin will make sure that the dates are provided. She thanked everyone for their input and the administration for their input as well.

Ms. Hodges stated the direct staff will communicate directly to the City Council.

Matt Carclucci stated if you vote this down, you should come back with a suggestion which would result in one round. I suggest putting a group together to make recommendations, i.e., we don’t want this, we suggest that.

Mr. Baldwin stated the staff presented during the last meeting asked for recommendations or suggestion on how this proposal was going to work.

1. **Adjournment-Mr. Baldwin**

Mr. Baldwin asked for a motion to end the meeting. It was motion to end the meeting by Matt Carlucci, seconded by James Coggin, motion carried. The meeting was closed at 4:58 p.m.

**A verbatim recording of this meeting is available upon request.**