

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE
COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
JULY 29, 2021 – 6:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

This meeting was conducted as a remote meeting under the N. C. Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration. In compliance with the N. C. General Assembly’s S.L. 2020-3, SB 704, this remote meeting was simultaneously streamed online with live audio and video and was available to the public and media live via the Cumberland County website (co.cumberland.nc.us), Youtube page (youtube.com/user/CumberlandCountyNC/videos) and on Cumberland County North Carolina TV (CCNC-TV) on Spectrum Cable Channel 5.

PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, ARP Committee Chairman
Commissioner Glenn Adams
Commissioner Charles Evans, Board of Commissioners Chairman
Amy Cannon, County Manager
Angel Wright-Lanier, Assistant County Manager
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager
Al Florez, Applications Manager, Innovation and Technology Services
Mayor Pro-Tem Kathy Jensen, City of Fayetteville
Doug Hewett, Fayetteville City Manager
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Commissioner Toni Stewart

1. WELCOME REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER JIMMY KEEFE, ARP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Keefe called the special meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the virtual community meeting. The purpose of the virtual community meeting was to provide a presentation on the American Rescue Plan and gather public input. Commissioner Keefe provided opening remarks about the ARP and introduced members of the county’s ARP Committee. Commissioner Keefe stated this meeting or listening session is an opportunity for citizens to participate in how the ARP funds are spent in Cumberland County. Commissioner Keefe introduced staff in attendance.

2. PRESENTATION BY COUNTY MANAGER AMY CANNON

Amy Cannon, County Manager, thanked those attending virtually for their participation. Ms. Cannon briefly spoke to how COVID has changed how we do things daily and stated with the current presence of the COVID variant, public health will continue to be involved. Ms. Cannon provided the following PowerPoint presentation so those participating virtually would have a better understanding of how ARP funds can be spent.

American Rescue Plan Act

- President signed act on March 11, 2021
- Includes \$350 billion for state, local, territorial and Tribal governments (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds)
- Cumberland County's allocation is \$65 million
- Funds delivered in two payments; first in 2021 and second in 2022

U.S. Treasury Guidance (Interim Final Rule)

- Funds can cover eligible expenses from March 3, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2024
- Funds must be expended by Dec. 31, 2026
- Reporting requirements include expenditures and performance measures
- Administrative costs allowable
- Must provide evidence of specific harm caused by COVID 19 and how projects will demonstrate meaningful impact
- Recipients with populations over 250,000 must submit annual spending plan to Treasury by Aug 31, 2021

Eligible Uses of Funds

A. Support public health response

- Prevent and mitigate COVID-19. Potential uses include vaccination programs, testing, contact tracing and many related activities
- Enhance behavioral health services, such as mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, hotlines, crisis intervention, overdose prevention and related services
- Improve the design and execution of health and public health programs to address the COVID-19 emergency through planning and analysis, which may include improvements to technology infrastructure and targeted consumer outreach
- Address disparities in public health outcomes

B. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

- Assistance to households or populations, preferably those most disproportionately impacted (food, rent, mortgage, utility, home repairs, job training, etc.)
- Small business and non-profit support with loans, grants, in-kind assistance and technical support
- Aid to impacted industries, including the tourism, travel, hospitality and other impacted sectors

C. Provide premium pay for essential workers

- Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors

D. Investment in water and sewer infrastructure

- Guidance allows for a broad range of necessary projects to improve access to clean drinking water and improve sewer infrastructure systems.
- Eligible uses are aligned to Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) project categories for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

E. Investment in broadband infrastructure

- Focus on households and businesses without access to broadband connectivity

- Fund projects that deliver reliable service with acceptable upload speeds

Replace public sector revenue loss

- Counties may use Recovery Funds for the provision of “government services” to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Equity-Focused Services

- Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities and promote healthy environments for children
- Broadly applicable to Qualified Census Tracts and other disproportionately impacted areas

Opportunities for Citizen Input

- Online survey at cumberlandcountync.gov. Survey closes on July 31
- Virtual input session on July 29 at 6 p.m.
- Log in at www.slido.com. Enter code #517 527.

3. CITY OVERVIEW

Ms. Cannon stated the county is pleased to have in attendance Fayetteville Mayor Pro-Tem Kathy Jensen and Fayetteville City Manager Doug Hewett. MPT Jensen thanked the county for allowing the city to be part of the conversation and stated the Fayetteville City Council is working diligently to mirror the county’s process. MPT Jensen stated the City Council and the City Manager will vet policy in order to cut down any of the delays caused by bureaucracy and will likely focus on infrastructure and housing because without them, the city cannot be improved. MPT Jensen stated she would like to ensure that everything done by the City Council will be focused on citizens.

Doug Hewett, Fayetteville City Manager, stated the city will take feedback from citizens during this virtual meeting and the city hopes to have its listening sessions and roll out a process similar to the county’s in a matter of weeks. Mr. Hewett reviewed the following PowerPoint slide.

American Rescue Plan Act

- City of Fayetteville’s allocation is \$40.4 Million
 - The City has partnered with iParametrics to:
 - Assess possible avenues for other funding through various federal programs
 - Aid in the creation of programs for any Community Grant Programs (businesses, non-profits, residents, etc.)
 - Support the application for additional state and federal grants to advance the City’s goals under ARPA funding
 - Conduct additional public input sessions to drive strategic, long-term and transformative investment decisions.
- <http://www.FayettevilleNC.gov/arpa>

4. SURVEY SESSION

Assistant County Managers Sally Shutt and Angel Wright-Lanier guided virtual attendees through

the following survey that included multi-choice polls, ranking polls and an open text poll. The results were displayed and read following each survey item.

Ranking poll



Please rank the funding categories in priority order of importance. Select the appropriate letter in the order you like, First most important, last least important.
(1/2)

0 2 2

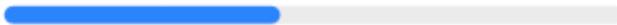
1. A. Support public health expenditures. Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health, safety, human services and other related staff
 3.41
2. B. Address negative economic impacts. Respond to economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries and the public sector.
 3.36
3. D. Investment in water and sewer infrastructure. Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure
 3.14

Ranking poll



Please rank the funding categories in priority order of importance. Select the appropriate letter in the order you like, First most important, last least important.
(2/2)

0 2 2

4. C. Provide premium pay for essential workers. Offer additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
 2.96
5. E. Investment in broadband infrastructure. Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband service
 2.14

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Please rank the following examples of programs and services designed to address the public health impacts of COVID-19 0 2 3

1. Enhance behavioral and mental health services  2.65
2. Services and programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to COVID-19  2.52
3. Improve the design and execution of health and public health programs to address needs  2.48
4. Address disparities in public health outcomes  2.35

Please rank the following examples of programs and services designed to address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 0 2 2

1. Assistance to households (food, rent, utility, case management, home repairs, job training, etc.)  3.14
2. Assistance to small businesses (loans, grants, technical assistance)  2.82
3. Assistance to non-profits (loans, grants technical assistance)  2.27
4. Aid to impacted industries (tourism, travel, hospitality and other impacted industries)  1.77

Please rank the following examples of programs and services designed to address disproportionately impacted communities 0 2 0

1. Affordable housing development  2.85
2. Addressing educational disparities magnified by the public health emergency  2.55
2. Promoting healthy environments for children (new or expanded high-quality childcare, home visiting programs for health, parent education and other programs)  2.55
4. Services to address homelessness  2.05



Rank the following types of infrastructure projects or programs in order of priority.

0 2 2

- 1. Projects to improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events  2.64
- 2. Public water projects to improve access to clean drinking water  2.59
- 3. Provide public sewer to address septic tank problems  2.55
- 4. Broadband infrastructure to unserved or underserved communities  2.23

Those participating virtually were given an opportunity to respond to the question recorded below about additional programs, services or projects the County should consider for ARP funding. The responses were read aloud.



Are there any additional programs, services or projects that the County should consider for ARP Funding?
(1/4)

0 2 0

- I like the answer about covid-19 food stamps relief for families without children. I could use some help with food
- Teachers pay raise!
- We still have food and medical deserts in Cumberland County
- Spend money on the Second Harvest Facility
- Providing money to FSU so that they may in turn provide more scholarships, assistance in development of the Fayetteville metro area
- Lower downtown needs a new recreation center, a new building with computers and exercise equipment....life skills classes and mentors
- Better police pay and training
- Transformational and generational projects that advance sustained equity, economic opportunity and development and overall quality of life.
- EMT training and development
- Mobile police units in

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Are there any additional programs, services or projects that the County should consider for ARP Funding?
(2/4)

0 2 0

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>high risk, underserved community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An indoor aquatic center would help our schools in our communities and bring in tourism • Community centers in county areas to provide something for children to do • GIVING COVID-19 FOOD RELIEF FUNDING TO ALL WORKING PEOPLE. EVEN IF YOU DONT HAVE CHILDREN. FOOD | <p>PRICES HAVE GONE UP SINCE COVID-19 DUE TO FOOD STAMPS RECIPIANTS GETTING EXTRA FUNDS EVERY MONTH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on more transportation options to enhance healthcare accessibility. Children’s behavioral health resources. More childcare and eldercare services. • Homeless shelter • Using funds to help bring in/create another business |
|---|--|



Are there any additional programs, services or projects that the County should consider for ARP Funding?
(3/4)

0 2 0

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>that will create sustainable jobs- NOT another small business/restaurant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More pay for the frontline/essential workers • Food Bank expansion projects • Increasing the capacity of the workforce development program • Public safety • Indoor aquatic facility in at-risk, underserved community if it qualifies under the rules. More money allocated | <p>to Habitat for Humanity for more affordable homes to be built in Fayetteville and Cumberland County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health facilities in areas with little or no access. Transportation to underserved areas and funding for struggling small businesses. • Would an aquatic indoor pool be qualified under the APR funding • Medicaid Expansion • transformational projects in low income communities and |
|--|---|

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Are there any additional programs, services or projects that the County should consider for ARP Funding?
(4/4)

0 2 0

- communities of color. Don't give for profit entities government money as a freebie, they should pay it back with their profits.
- VA services
- Help for teachers
- Education opportunities in trade vocations for wages above the HUD poverty threshold.
- Funding and testing for untested rape kits. Please end the rape kit backlog
- Public school facilities plumbing needs an update.
- Public safety where applicable
- Stipend to individuals who have been vaccinated in an effort to encourage and entice others to be vaccinated
- Food Bank expansion of services and facilities
- Help the GC area combat GENx



Are you a Cumberland County resident?

0 2 4



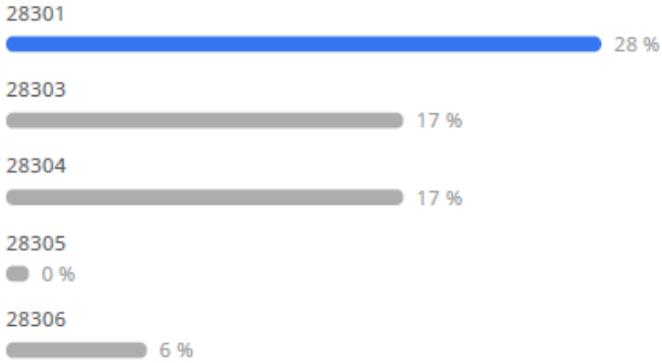
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Multiple-choice poll



If you live in the City of Fayetteville, please select your Zip Code
(1/2)

0 1 8

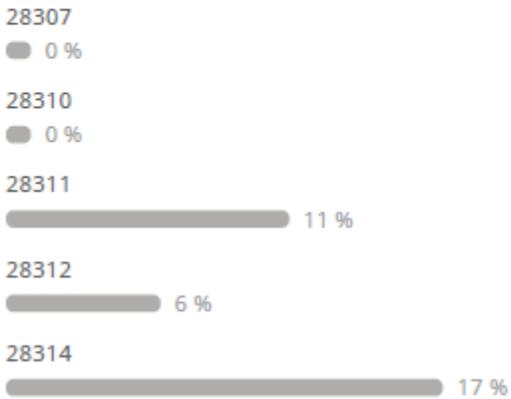


Multiple-choice poll



If you live in the City of Fayetteville, please select your Zip Code
(2/2)

0 1 8



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Multiple-choice poll



If you live in other areas of Cumberland County, please select your Zip Code
(1/2)

007



Multiple-choice poll



If you live in other areas of Cumberland County, please select your Zip Code
(2/2)

007

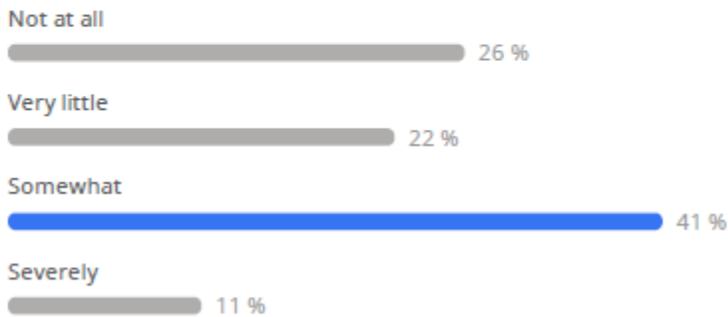


Multiple-choice poll



Has the COVID-19 crisis negatively affected your family financially?

027



Multiple-choice poll



Do you have access to affordable high-speed broadband at home?

0 2 4

Yes



No



Multiple-choice poll



What is your relationship to Cumberland County?

0 2 3

Live in Cumberland County



Work in Cumberland County



Both



Multiple-choice poll



Do you own or operate a small business in Cumberland County?

0 2 3

Yes



No



Multiple-choice poll



Are you connected in some way to the military?

0 2 2

Yes



No



Multiple-choice poll



Are you a veteran or spouse of a veteran?

0 2 3

Yes



No



Multiple-choice poll



Are you affiliated with a non-profit organization that provides services to citizens who have been negatively affected by COVID-19?

0 2 3

Yes



No



Multiple-choice poll



How old are you?

0 2 4

Under 18



18-34



35-54



55 or older



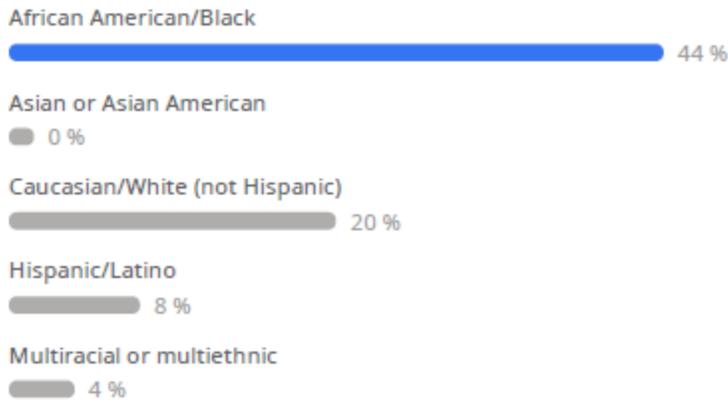
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Multiple-choice poll



Most people think of themselves as belonging to a particular ethnic or racial group. How do you identify yourself?
(1/2)

0 2 5



Multiple-choice poll



Most people think of themselves as belonging to a particular ethnic or racial group. How do you identify yourself?
(2/2)

0 2 5



Multiple-choice poll



Would you like to receive information through a newsletter or emails about Cumberland County government activities, services and programs?

0 2 3



5. WRAP UP

Commissioner Keefe reviewed opportunities for citizen input via the online survey and the email address for questions. Commissioner Keefe emphasized how important it is for citizens to participate so the voice of the public can be heard.

- Online survey at cumberlandcountync.gov.
Survey closes on July 31
- Email questions to arp@co.cumberland.nc.us

6. CLOSING COMMENTS

Commissioner Keefe provided closing comments and thanked MPT Kathy Jensen and Fayetteville City Manager Doug Hewett for joining the virtual meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board