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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** |
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**Meeting Minutes**

**Council Member Garrett Dennis**

**Meeting Date:** May 8, 2020

**Topic:** New Legislation RE Stimulus

**Location:** Virtual meeting via Zoom – no physical location

**In Attendance:** Council Member Garrett Dennis, Council Member Ron Salem, Council Member Brenda Priestly Jackson, Council Member Danny Becton, Council Member Sam Newby, Council Member Michael Boylan, Council Member Matt Carlucci, Attorney Susan Grandin, Assistant Council Auditor Kim Taylor  
*\*Please see video recording for a complete list of attendees*

**Meeting Convened:** 10:30 a.m.

Council Member Garrett Dennis called the meeting to order and explained members would be able to unmute themselves to allow for open dialogue. CM Dennis explained the bill he introduced would use the “Building Inspection Fund” dollars to free up 5 million dollars of the stimulus dollars.   
  
Attorney Susan Grandin drafted the bill and went into further details. Ms. Grandin said the “Building Inspection Fund” can only be used for certain things. Auditor Kim Taylor explained there will be a 10 million dollar shortfall from doing a moratorium and 5 million was already planned. She went further to say that the fund is very healthy, 17.7 million, and a change in state law states there cannot be too much in the reserves. The bill CM Dennis introduced would set aside 5 million for the council to decide where the dollars would be reallocated. CM Dennis said the fund has been used previously for homeowners who were affected by a hurricane and needed roof repairs.   
  
CM Dennis asked when the CARES Act dollars had to be used and Ms. Taylor stated December 30, 2020 is when all the dollars have to be expended or returned to the federal government. CM Priestly Jackson asked for more information regarding the “Building Inspection Fund” and how long it would take to build back up. Ms. Taylor explained the auditor’s office asked in budget hearings for the fees to possibly be adjusted so large amounts do not continue to accrue. State law that went into effect July 1, 2019 specified too large of an amount cannot be kept in the “Building Inspection Fund” because the government shouldn’t be profiting off of building inspection fees.   
  
CM Becton asked for more information on the limitations of the fund in the future. Ms. Taylor provided an estimation of 16.6 million from last year. CM Becton said he would like more information but it makes sense to take advantage of this now, during a crisis. CM Newby was surprised 40 million dollars was spent in one day after opening up to citizens in need. He expressed concern that more people are in need and he intended to support CM Dennis’ bill.   
  
CM Boylan asked if it would be an emergency and said there should only be one captain of the ship. He believed the mayor’s office should make a recommendation of where the dollars go and they should manage the entire process. CM Salem suggested holding off on the funding until August or September. CM Dennis said the legislative body is in control of funding.   
  
CM Dennis asked for support for his bill and adjourned the meeting.   
  
Public Comment: Attendee expressed concerns regarding sole proprietors and nonprofits being left behind and not receiving funding.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:30 a.m.

***The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed.***

***For verbatim comments for this meeting, please listen to the audio recording.***

Minutes: Taryn Roberts, Executive Council Assistant District 9

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary

Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief of Research  
Kristi Sikes, Chief, Administrative Services Division

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