

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Introduced by: City Manager Moosey
Date: September 8, 2020
Action: Approved
Vote: Unanimous

Yes:	No:
Berberich	
Best	
Carrington	
L. Combs	
S. Combs	
DeVries	
Valerius	

CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA

Resolution No. 20-022

A Resolution of the Palmer City Council Adopting a COVID-19 CARES Act Funds Policy

WHEREAS, the city of Palmer Alaska was deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2020, Palmer City Council approved Resolution No. 20-015 accepting the city’s share of Coronavirus Relief Funds in the amount of \$7,566,546.24 from the Federal Treasury through the State of Alaska; and

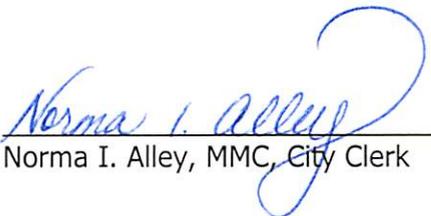
WHEREAS, on July 14, 2020, the Palmer City Council approved Resolution No. 20-017 appropriating expenditures of the CARES Act Funds; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Treasury has issued guidelines to the eligible use of the COVID-19 CARES Act Funds and has been consistent in providing additional guidance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palmer’s external auditor has advised that a Policy adopted by the City Council as to the nature and use of these funds is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Palmer City Council hereby adopts the COVID-19 CARES FUNDS POLICY and approved for implementation for the City’s share of Coronavirus Relief Funds and by this reference incorporated.

Approved by the Palmer City Council this 8th day of September, 2020.


Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk


Edna B. DeVries, Mayor

COVID-19 CARES FUNDS POLICY

BACKGROUND

On May 26, 2020, Palmer City Council approval (Resolution No 20-015) accepting the City's share of Coronavirus Relief Funds in the amount of \$7,566,546.24. It was followed with the approval Resolution No. 20-017. This appropriated expenditures of the CARES Act Funds.

Federal Treasury guidelines stipulate that all CARES Act expenditures must be "necessary." The Department of Treasury understands this term broadly to mean the expenditure is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgement of the government officials responsible for spending Fund payments.

Funds must be expended by December 30, 2020 and unspent funds must be returned. Advanced funding of operational costs for projects are not permitted.

POLICY

The programs eligible for CARES funding consist of the following:

- 1) Small Business CARES Grants
- 2) Non-profit CARES Grants
- 3) Non-profit CARES Competitive Grants
- 4) City Utility Abatement
- 5) City Mitigation Expenditures
- 6) City Resiliency and Recovery

The Small Business CARES Grants and the Non-profit CARES Grants shall be designed to be non-competitive qualified awarded. Each business and organization that falls within a broad set of criteria shall be eligible for funding. The basis for the expenditures is found in the supplement Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund ("Fund") Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, dated April 22, 2020.

"A program that is aimed at assisting small businesses with the costs of business interruption caused by required closures should be tailored to assist those businesses in need of such assistance. The amount of a grant to a small business to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures would also be an eligible expenditure under section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as outlined in the Guidance."

The Non-profit CARES Competitive Grants shall be limited in scope to larger City-centric services that provides a unique set of deliverables to the Greater Palmer community. The basis for the expenditures is found in supplement Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund ("Fund") Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, dated April 22, 2020.

City utility abatement shall be awarded to all residents and businesses that use the City of Palmer utility services. The basis for this expenditure is found in the supplement Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund ("Fund") Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, dated April 22, 2020.

"Recipients may use Fund payments to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families directly impacted by a loss of income due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. For example, if determined to be a necessary expenditure, a

government could provide grants to individuals facing economic hardship to allow them to pay their utility fees and thereby continue to receive essential services.”

City Mitigation Expenditures are activities by the City of Palmer Government organization during the COVID-19 public health crisis. The expenditures shall include payroll for the City’s police, fire and emergency response. It shall also include short term supplies and gear needed to clean and protect workers and citizens, which shall also include short term contracts to provide protective services. All expenditures for safe and efficient public meetings and elections are to be included. As a matter of administrative convenience, the entire payroll cost of an employee whose time is substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency is eligible, provided that such payroll costs are incurred by December 30, 2020. An employer may also track time spent by employees related to COVID-19 and apply Fund payments on that basis but would need to do so consistently within the relevant agency or department. Expenditures of providing paid sick, family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions. The basis for the expenditures is found in the supplement Treasury’s Coronavirus Relief Fund (“Fund”) Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, dated April 22, 2020.

“The Fund is designed to provide ready funding to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the COVID-19 public health emergency. For this reason, and as a matter of administrative convenience in light of the emergency nature of this program, a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government may presume that payroll costs for public health and public safety employees are payments for services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.”

City Resiliency and Recovery are expenditures that will allow the City of Palmer to prevent future staff and citizen risk of the COVID-19 virus. The expenses related to providing services in a safer environment including electronic equipment, software and related services are acceptable. Building improvements to minimize virus spread such as air quality improvement, floor covering replacements or safety response communication equipment is permissible. First responder clothing gear new and replacement is also acceptable. The basis for the expenditures is found in supplement Treasury’s Coronavirus Relief Fund (“Fund”) Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, dated April 22, 2020.

“Expenses associated with conducting a recovery planning project or operating a recovery coordination office would be eligible, if the expenses otherwise meet the criteria set forth in section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance.”