



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS Committee of the Whole Communication

Meeting Date: April 12, 2021

Prepared By: Ray Forsythe, City Administrator

Agenda Item: Grant to the Washington Park District to assist with opening the Swimming Pool for summer 2021 and potentially 2022.

Explanation: The Park District has suffered significant revenue loss over the last year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Governor's Mandate limiting traditional Park District activities, including operating the public swimming pool. It is anticipated that the Park District will be able to open this year with limited capacity. One of the largest expenses for the operation of the pool is the cost to fill and maintain water levels throughout the summer. Over the last several years, this has been between \$12,000 - \$15,000. Because the Water Fund is an Enterprise Fund, there is no easy way to reduce or waive bills without impacting the overall fund balance. It is recommended that the General Fund provide a grant to the Park District to cover the cost of water. In essence, the City would transfer funds from the General Fund to the Water Fund to cover the summer bills. The City Council could fund this Grant through Reserves or a portion of the undesignated American Recovery Act Funds. The ARA Funds will be distributed to the City in 2 payments with the first payment sometime in early FY 2021/2022 and the second payment the same time next year in FY 2022/2023. While the rules for these funds are not released yet, it is anticipated that this type of use will be eligible.

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$15,000 to cover the cost water for the Swimming Pool to be paid from General Fund Reserves or American Recovery Act Funds once the Rules are released.

Action Requested: Staff is seeking direction from the Committee of the Whole on granting a maximum of \$15,000 in water costs to allow the swimming pool to open summer of 2021.

Attachments: NONE