



**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018; 7:00 PM**

Council Questions and Staff Response

Questions from Alderman Diana Hauman

Consent Agenda Items:

Item No. 8E -- Do we know why recycling was down in FY17.

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Director of Public Works

Based upon a recent annual material review between the Public Works Department and Midwest Fiber, this drop in recycling weight can best be attributed to reduced mixed paper in the single recycling stream and increased lighter weight material being recycled. This is a trend that the recycling industry is seeing across the country with reduced weights for the same volume of material. Additional research can be done if requested to provide a more comprehensive answer.

Item No. 8H -- Any idea why no one wants our grass and leaves? Have we talked with master gardeners or Ecology Action Center for ideas on what to do with them?

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Director of Public Works

The volume of leaves that the City processes annually exceeds the amount that most single individual gardeners are able to handle. Staff has attempted to find additional land owners who are willing to take this material. One of the key metrics in past assessment is distance to haul for our equipment. The City strives to find the closest property to the City limits where the leaves and grass can be properly land applied. The Ecology Action Center has been included on past discussions around this issue.

Item No. 8I -- What are "temporary gravel utility patches"? If we did not use the funds this year, can they be moved to next year?

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Director of Public Works

The temporary gravel utility patches are areas where existing brick streets have had areas of brick removed for utility work. As stated in the City Council approved Brick Street Master Plan, these areas are left as gravel in order for a brick street maintenance contract to come back and properly repair the brick street. There has not been any funding dedicated for a brick street maintenance contract so the Historic Preservation Commission through coordination with Legal, Finance, Community Development and the Public Works Department was able to leverage this funding to

repair the outstanding temporary gravel patches from utility work. Staff views this as a positive short term solution to provide for relief associated with the currently disturbed brick streets.

80 -- Again, I am concerned about follow up in 6months...

Staff Response: Bob Yehl, Water Department Director

The Water Department utilizes a reminder system to ensure that the new lease holder is contacted approximately 3 months prior to the expiration of the condition requiring permitting of existing structures determined to be compliant with City rules and regulations within 6 months of the lease transfer. If a response is not received after the initial written follow-up, the Department sends follow-up letters and attempts to make contact by phone.

Regular Agenda Items:

Item No. 9B -- NPP did the bidding for us? Do we have a completed evaluation form from the vendors? (Page 313)

Item No. 9C -- Why the difference between budget and provider? \$40K is a significant amount (to me!)

Item No. 9E but also general question -- How do we know we are getting what we contract for? Does anyone from the city oversee the work or test materials being used? Any "guarantees"?

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Director of Public Works

The City does provide oversight for construction projects to the extent that resources allows. The City also utilizes an outside testing firm to ensure the materials are meeting the contract specifications. City contracts also cover the areas of quality of workmanship so there is language that the City can utilize if concerns do arise.

Item No. 9Eb, c, d, e, and f -- These are each significantly under budgeted amount and often under the second lowest bid? Why?

Many factors can influence bid pricing, including but not limited to, quantity of work, number of bidders or perceived bidders, details of specifications, difficulty of work, and past relationship during inspections. The City cannot completely determine what factors play into each bid such as the case with these bids.

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Director of Public Works

Item No. 9Eg -- If other items are under budget, why not complete the job rather than reducing the work? Or did I misread this?

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Director of Public Works

Staff is recommending to award this item up to the budgeted amount. The City Council could increase the funding allotted to this work from another source such as budget reserve.

New item: Could we have the budgeted amount as well as the bid amounts consistently in the "financial impact" information? 9C vs 9D