

**CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS/STAFF RESPONSES FOR MARCH 26, 2012 MEETING
AS OF MARCH 25, 2012 AT 8:15 PM**

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item: Title Page: Date should be March 26, 2012 not March 12, 2012

Staff Response: Comment noted.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6C: Consent Agenda –“Request to Purchase Replacement Panasonic Toughbook Computers under State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Contract”

Question/Comment: “Glad to see these being replaced. It is my understanding that there are plans to upgrade more regularly even in the face of an eventual recession, correct? If so, when? Tests performed: did we perform those or are those the assertions of the company?”

Staff Response: This type of equipment is scheduled for replacement every four (4) years. The tests required to obtain MIL-STD-810G certification are set forth by the United States Department of Defense. The tests were actually performed and documented by the Panasonic Corporation.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6D: Consent Agenda –“Analysis of Bids for Carpeting in US Cellular Coliseum (USCC) Suites and VIP Lounge Areas”

Question/Comment: “Glad to see this done. I look forward to an eventual facilities master plan for all city owned buildings.”

Staff Response: Staff is working on drafting Request for Proposals (RFPs).

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 6D: Consent Agenda –“Analysis of Bids for Carpeting in US Cellular Coliseum (USCC) Suites and VIP Lounge Areas”

Question/Comment: “Will the carpet be squares rather than rolls? Squares would minimize the need to replace the entire carpet as spills or other damage occurs to just portions of the carpet area?”

Staff Response: The carpet will be squares as stated under Background, 5th paragraph, first sentence: “Included in the specification, the lower bidder is responsible for removal of existing and installation of the carpet squares.”

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6E: Consent Agenda –“Analysis of Bids for One (1) Self-Propelled, Airless, Truck Mounted Traffic Line Striping Machine for Public Works Streets and Sewers Division”

Question/Comment: “Why such low trade-in value for such an expensive piece of equipment?”

Staff Response: The equipment is 10 years old, not efficient, and not in demand; other bids received offered \$2,500 for the trade in.

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 6E: Consent Agenda –“Analysis of Bids for One (1) Self-Propelled, Airless, Truck Mounted Traffic Line Striping Machine for Public Works Streets and Sewers Division”

Question/Comment: “I very much appreciate the two changes that increase the initial cost by increase efficiency and minimize possible Worker’s Compensation Claims”

Staff Response: When equipment needs to be replaced, Staff is also looking for efficiencies that would include minimizing injuries to Staff.

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Alderman: “Bernie” Anderson

Item 6E: Consent Agenda –“Analysis of Bids for One (1) Self-Propelled, Airless, Truck Mounted Traffic Line Striping Machine for Public Works Streets and Sewers Division”

Question/Comment: “Have we worked with the Town of Normal and/or the County to inquire if there would ever be an opportunity to do a joint purchase or do stripping for them? Stripping for other governmental bodies could be an offset of cost or revenue generator?”

Staff Response: Staff has talked with the Town of Normal and McLean County Highway Department regarding this issue. The Town of Normal currently has a similar paint striping machine which is in good condition and not in need of replacement. Normal currently has success in completing their long pavement markings, but struggles completing the work done by smaller machines. Bloomington typically completes the painting of approximately 75% of all pavement markings within our corporate boundaries. The County currently struggles to maintain their traffic line painting program. Neither government has the manpower to assist the other and be able to complete the same amount of work they currently perform each year. Another obstacle to sharing equipment is that Normal and Bloomington both perform traffic line painting during the overnight hours to minimize the exposure of the crews to active traffic.

Alderwoman: Karen Schmidt

Item 6E: Consent Agenda –“Analysis of Bids for One (1) Self-Propelled, Airless, Truck Mounted Traffic Line Striping Machine for Public Works Streets and Sewers Division”

Question/Comment: “Are we convinced that continuing to do this in-house is the best arrangement? I appreciate the observation from Bernie that we look at inter-governmental agreements.”

Staff Response: Staff has been tracking the average cost of performing traffic line painting over the past two years. The last time a comparison was made between the City and private striping indicates the City Crews are performing this work for less than \$.25 cents per lineal foot while Contractors have been charging nearly \$1.00 per lineal foot for the same work.

Alderman: “Bernie” Anderson

Item 6F: Consent Agenda –“Professional Services for the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA)”

Question/Comment: “Please show current budget balances, especially if they are low or negative”

Staff Response: The April 30, 2011 fund balance was approximately \$1,061,074; however, \$960,000 of this fund balance is restricted to the Creativity Center Project.

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 6F: Consent Agenda –“Professional Services Contract for the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (BCPA)”

Question/Comment: “Does this expense play into the examination to eliminate the total annual structural deficit at the BCPA?”

Staff Response: The structural deficit is being addressed by the FY2013 Recommended Budget. Staff does forecast a profit on this particular performance.

Alderman: Jim Fruin

Item 6G: Consent Agenda –“Petition from FOB Development, Inc., Requesting Approval of a Final Plat for the Empire Business Park Subdivision, Second Addition, commonly located north of IL Rt. 9 and east of Airport Road. (Ward 3)”

Question/Comment: “Is this Ward 3 or Ward 9?”

Staff Response: Correction, Ward 9.

**CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS/STAFF RESPONSES FOR MARCH 26, 2012 MEETING
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Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 7A: Regular Agenda –“Application for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, (ITEP), Grant”

Question/Comment: “My preference would be to prioritize Option 2 (Gateway Plan) over Option 1 (Constitution Trail Extension) because it will affect the overall appeal of the City to the larger number of people”

Staff Response: Either of the projects would benefit the City.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 7A: Regular Agenda –“Application for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, (ITEP), Grant”

Question/Comment: “Have we considered collaborating with the Town of Normal on gateways, particularly with Main Street and Veterans? We would take care of the South while they take care of North entrances?”

Staff Response: Staff is agreeable to discussing with the Town of Normal a cooperative effort to enhance the gateways into the communities. As an example, the City has allowed Town of Normal verbiage to be included on City Water Towers in the past.

Alderman: Jim Fruin

Item 7A: Regular Agenda –“Application for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, (ITEP), Grant”

Question/Comment: “I completely agree with Mboka’s comment on the Gateways. This should definitely be a joint effort between the two communities. If I am coming into Bloomington/Normal from Chicago, I need the welcome signage as soon as I touch Veterans (north of the overpass and north of Menards). And, not when I hit the Bloomington boundary line, North Main coming in from #39 is another example. With no Budgeted dollars for a Gateway Plan, I suggest we ask the City Manager to put it on his discussion list with the Town of Normal. Great opportunity for intergovernmental cooperation!”

Staff Response: Staff would be agreeable to discuss with the Town of Normal.

Alderman: “Bernie” Anderson

Item 7A: Regular Agenda –“Application for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, (ITEP), Grant”

Question/Comment: “I support the development of both with an emphasize on the gateways. I have been working with the Beautification Committee over the past three years and it’s time to clean up the entry ways of our City. It truly has an economic impact related to potential visitors/site searchers.”

Staff Response: Staff worked with the City’s Beautification Committee on the Gateways Project several years ago.

Alderwoman: Karen Schmidt

Item 7A: Regular Agenda –“Application for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, (ITEP), Grant”

Question/Comment: “I also support looking at our community gateways, and support Mboka’s suggestion that we work with Normal on this. I consider this good economic development work that showcases our community. Thanks. Karen”

Staff Response: Staff would be agreeable to work with the Town of Normal.

Prepared by: Barbara J. Adkins, Deputy City Manager