

Council Questions/Comments and Staff Responses Report for August 13, 2012

as of August 12, 2012 at 9:28pm

WORK SESSION

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item: Community Visioning Proposal & Bloomington Comprehensive Plan Update

Questions/Comments:

1. In the SWOT analysis under weaknesses for Downtown Revitalization, I would add “no city refuse pick up.
2. In the article “Where is our community going?” it is stated that the best vision statements are one sentence and easy to remember. I would like to adopt this concept for the City of Bloomington’s Mission Statement, which is currently two sentences and 32 words, which makes it unlikely to be easy to remember. Could we address the issue of making our City Mission Statement more meaningful?
3. It will be critical to tie the vision with the financial plan to support the vision.
4. It would seem that the new civic milieu developed in Kannapolis with David Hales leadership would be a good model to emulate.
5. In the Hile Group report, I would add that our community should take advantage of its position as an ideal working retirement community by adding that to one of the main definitions of who we are in our branding effort.
6. In general, we need to simplify significantly how we plan to proceed with our visioning effort if we hope to obtain community leadership involvement. Will simplification of the process be addressed?

Staff Response: The Alderman’s comments will be applicable if the City proceeds with a visioning process.

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item: Noise Ordinance

Questions/Comments:

1. Based on recent citizen complaints, I would recommend that the 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. time construction type activities be changed to 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The earlier time is bothersome to many residents in otherwise quiet neighborhoods.
2. I would recommend the penalty fines be increased to \$200 for first offense and \$500 for second offense, and I would like to consider even stronger penalties for subsequent offenses.

Staff Response: Staff acknowledges Alderman Fazzini’s comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6G: Analysis Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Emergency Traffic Signal Repair Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: There is mention of the staff following the Council’s request for a more competitive process but each time there is also mention of unfinished work, staffing challenges etc... I am curious what the staff’s experience has been with this new process and whether the challenges were similar in the old process?

Staff Response: The major challenge with the old process was providing a Council Memo with sufficient documentation for each infrastructure repair. The major challenge with the new process is significant staff time to prepare the bid documents, hold a pre-bid meeting, answer Contractor questions, bid the project and prepare a Council Memo to approve/award the contract. Since the new process is a competitive bid, the Contractors are looking for technicalities or other issues in order to win the bid, since only one gets all the work. Under the old process, the work was divided among all local Contractors that were capable and willing to perform the work. The rates under the new bid process are considerably

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higher than the rates under the old process. This is probably due to the Contractor's uncertainty with being locked into a contract for a full year instead of a project by project basis. The unfinished work is a result of low staff levels which creates challenges regardless of the process used.

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 6G: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Emergency Traffic Signal Repair Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: Increases from 2012 to 2013 of \$150K to \$400K. These are significant increases for just one year. Are we to expect increases of this size in 2014 and beyond?

Staff Response: Increased budget is due to unfinished work from previous years and growing repairs due to the City's aging infrastructure. Budget for future years will undoubtedly increase unless significant funding for infrastructure replacement or major repairs, i.e., signal upgrades, sewer lining, channel erosion repairs & protection, etc., is provided

Alderman: Bernie Anderson

Item 6G: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Emergency Traffic Signal Repair Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: Where do we come up with the \$400K? It looks like it should be \$438K! What am I missing?

Staff Response: The approved FY 2013 budget for this work was \$400,000. The remaining funds from the FY 2012 budget did not roll into FY 2013.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6H: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Grading & Seeding Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: There is mention of the staff following the Council's request for a more competitive process but each time there is also mention of unfinished work, staffing challenges, etc... I am curious what the staff's experience has been with this new process and whether the challenges were similar in the old process?

Staff Response: Same as 6G under Alderman Mboka Mwilambwe.

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 6H: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Grading & Seeding Contract (City Wide)

Questions/Comment: Increases from 2012 to 2013 of \$50K to \$150K. These are significant increases for just one year. Are we to expect increases of this size in 2014 and beyond? What is the cost of the stickers?

Staff Response: Same as 6G under Aldermen Robert Fazzini.

Alderman: Bernie Anderson

Item 6H: Analysis Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Grading & Seeding Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: How are we handling this with the drought? The seed will be blown away.

Staff Response: With the current drought, we are not currently seeding. We are installing temporary erosion measurers and will return to seed and mulch the areas later.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6I: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Utility Maintenance Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: There is mention of the staff following the Council's request for a more competitive process but each time there is also mention of unfinished work, staffing challenges etc...I am curious what the staff's experience has been with this new process and whether the challenges were similar in the old process?

Staff Response: Same as 6G under Alderman Mboka Mwilambwe.

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Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 6I: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Utility Maintenance Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: Increases from 2012 to 2013 of \$200K to \$400K. These are significant increases for just one year. Are we to expect increases of this size in 2014 and beyond?

Staff Response: Same as 6G under Alderman Robert Fazzini.

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 6J: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Street, Alley & Sidewalk Maintenance Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: There is mention of the staff following the Council's request for a more competitive process but each time there is also mention of the unfinished work, staffing, challenges, etc...I am curious what the staff's experience has been with this new process and whether the challenges were similar in the old process?

Staff Response: Same as 6G under Alderman Mboka Mwilambwe.

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 6J: Analysis of Bids and Approval of the FY 2013 Street, Alley & Sidewalk Maintenance Contract (City Wide)

Question/Comment: Increases from 2012 to 2013 of \$100K to \$200K. These are significant increases for just one year. Are we to expect increases of this size in 2014 and beyond?

Staff Response: Same as 6G under Alderman Robert Fazzini.

REGULAR AGENDA

Alderman: Mboka Mwilambwe

Item 8A: Selection of Rehg Pacific Company as Vendor to provide 65-gallon and 95 gallon Black Wheeled Recycling and Garbage Carts with Blue Lids

Question/Comment: What is the cost of the sticker?

Staff Response: The low bidder Rehg has an additional cost of \$0.50 per sticker for adding a "Bloomington Recycles" logo sticker on the cart side. The following is a reference from the Council Memo addressing the potential use of cart stickers:

"The bid also included the option of placing stickers on the sides of carts to denote recycling. Staff believes the sticker need not be used and should not be ordered to save money. Choosing a black cart with a blue lid (with an in-mold recycling labeling on this lid) will achieve the same goal. Stickers are not considered part of the cart 10 year warranty and as such typically have issues of staying attached. By recommending a blue lid for the cart, there should be enough to differentiate the cart from the refuse container."

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Item 8A: Selection of Rehg Pacific Company as Vendor to provide 65-gallon and 95-gallon Black Wheeled Recycling and Garbage Carts with Blue Lids

Question/Comment: I appreciate the thorough reference checking regarding Rehg Pacific Company, especially checking three users not provided on the list from the company. I am curious, however, who the Town of Normal uses and why it did not choose Rehg Pacific Company?

Staff Response: The Town of Normal currently uses Schaefer carts. Please refer to the following information in the Regular Agenda Council Memo:

"Bloomington city staff initially sought to contract (without bid) with Schaefer Systems International, Charlotte, N.C. based on the Town of Normal good experience with Schaefer and

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on our staff's opinion of the Schaefer wheeled carts. Staff and the City Manager changed course and instead recommended the project be bid, as there are other companies producing quality carts. Staff used a Schaefer cart to help prepare specifications for bidders. As part of its bid, Schaefer provided a sample cart showing a new design that appears to be less sturdy than the Schaefer carts that city staff initially wanted. Schaefer was outbid by its competitors."

OTHER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Alderman: Robert Fazzini

Question/Comment: Finally, because of all the emails recently regarding the speed humps on Country Club, I would like to know the best time for a discussion regarding this issue? Timing is critical because of the need for a decision prior to the road construction being started.

Staff Response: The City Manager will discuss during City Manager's Discussion.

Prepared by: Barbara J. Adkins, Deputy City Manager