



**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SESSION
NOVEMBER 13, 2017; 7:00 PM**

COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND STAFF RESPONSE

Question from Alderman Hauman

Item 7E - With a contract for one year with four one year renewal options, I "assume" we do not rebid in the four additional years? If so, why does council need to approve this? (And now a curiosity question: Why did we receive only one bid in 2014? Are there no other options in the area that meet our specs?)

Staff Response: Jeffrey Jurgens, Corporation Counsel

The initial fuel contract was entered into prior to the initiation of standard form contracts. Typically the City would not enter into a new contract for each renewal term, however, in this case City has done so for each renewal. Our current practice is to spell out in the initial contract who has the authority to exercise a renewal and how that is done. In this case, without that language spelled out, City staff has opted to be more cautious and have the City Council directly authorize the renewal utilizing a standard contract form.

Question from Alderman Hauman

Item 7F - Is "BOSS" an acronym for something or does a state employee actually have a sense of humor? On "Vendor/State of Illinois" contract page.

Staff Response: Scott Sprouls, IS Director

Staff's understanding is that the State of Illinois worker, who processed the signature page of the state contract (CMS6945110) in 2015, was referring to their "BOSS" Tom Tyrell who was also identified on the Title line as "COO". Staff assumes "COO" is an acronym for Chief Operating Officer.

Question from Alderman Hauman

8A - If we were to reject the VenuWorks proposal: 1) (I know this goes against my feelings on using consultants, but here goes.) Would it be possible to use VenuWorks as consultants once a PAM is identified? 2) Could VenuWorks help in identifying a PAM?

Staff Response: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager

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Yes, and Yes. Once we determined who will have the PAM, we will do everything possible to get a performing arts manager.

Question from Alderman Hauman

If we accept the VenuWorks proposal: What will happen with the Creativity Center?

Staff Response: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager

Whether VenuWorks get the contract or not, the Creativity Center will continue to be managed by the City with the Parks Department having responsibility for its day-to-day management.

Question from Alderman Hauman

Whether we accept or reject the proposal, could the Creativity Center be "given" to the Friends of the BCPA along with the \$1M designated for the Creativity Center?

Staff Response: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager

Yes, once we decide the future of the VenuWorks proposal, we have a number of options for the Creativity Center that could certainly be one of them.

Comments from Alderman Hauman

Not a question, only an observation about fundraising and the BCPA. We have missed at least three years of potential fundraising by not replacing the previous fundraiser when he relocated. It will take several years for a professional fundraiser to make the contacts/connections to show real growth in private money...

Staff Response: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager

Yes, as soon as we find out who will management the BCPA, we will begin to aggressively fill this vacancy along with others.

Question from Alderman Hauman

Item 8C - There are two bids within \$2000 of one another and a third bid that is twice the others? Is there a reason that Michele's Pipe is so much higher (especially since their bid in item 8D is more in line with the others? Can we expect "overruns" from Visu-Sewer for "unexpected" costs? 8C-8D - Is there an advantage to using Visu-Sewer for both?

Staff Response: Jim Karch, Public Works Director

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Regarding 8C: It is standard practice for the City to accept the low responsible bidder for work that is publicly bid. Staff has recommended the acceptance of the low responsible bidder for this item. During the bidding process, contractors are not aware of the other bid amounts so they put forth their best price considering factors such as their existing work load, mobilization and resource capacity. This naturally lends for differentiations in the contractor's bid pricing as seen on item 8C. As a standard practice, staff deals regularly with issues of contractor disagreements on the interpretation contract documents so that is to be expected.

Question from Alderman Hauman

Regarding 8D: There are advantages of working with less contractors from the standpoint of coordination. Since the City has taken the stance of awarding contracts to the lowest responsible bidder, the current recommendation does remain.