



**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018; 7:00 PM**

City Council Questions and Staff Response

From: Alderman Jamie Mathy

Consent Agenda:

7B: I would like to get some basic information on why airline tickets for the One Voice trip were so drastically different. (From the Bills / Payroll packet there were reimbursements for Scott, Tari, and Steve.)

Staff Response: Scott Rathbun, Budget Manager

There was a disconnect on the ordering of the tickets. They were not ordered until around a week before the departure date. This resulted in the higher prices - for most individuals (with some variances due to differing departure times). Scott Black, however, departed from Chicago, so his ticket was significantly lower than the others.

7F: Chief Heffner, I understand a need for training. Are there any other agencies in the central Illinois area who already have this setup, that we might be able to rent some space on cheaper than owning our own?

Or if the answer is no, can we rent space / time to other central Illinois agencies to offset some of our costs on this setup?

Staff Response: Police Chief Brendan Heffner

While researching the different simulators we asked to see them and talk to people currently using them. We were sent to Granite City and Chicago (Loyola University) to view systems currently deployed. VirTra does not currently have a system deployed in Central Illinois. We have viewed the system at 2 different demonstration sites.

There is a significant training component that we are paying for along with the system. We would require our instructors to be present when the system is being used. This would safeguard our equipment as well as to control access to the facility where the system will be housed. We do not anticipate the hourly of cost of our personnel plus a modest rental fee plus a building fee being acceptable to many if any departments in the area.

We would however give strong consideration to the possibility if departments expressed an interest and a willingness to pay for the use of the simulator and our instructors. This assumes we would have the manpower to staff and facilitate the use of the training simulator.

The use of this simulator is also a training component in alignment with the law and the President's 21 Century Task Force on Policing regarding use of force and de-escalation training

Council Question: Alderman Jamie Mathy

7G: Is this scanning unit envisioned to be shared by police & fire?

Staff Response: Police Chief Brendan Heffner

We anticipate using the 3D scanner to assist with Arson Investigations as the technology has shown great promise in these investigations. This was already discussed with Chief Mohr.

7H: Just a correction - in the background section it says the building is east of Veteran's parkway - it's actually west of Veteran's.

Council Question: Alderman Jamie Mathy

9B: Page 4 and Page 7 of the StraightUp Solar packet show a REC value of \$60,000 that will be available for Habitat, lowering the total "costs" of the project down to \$74,376.

My understanding of the Solar Renewable Energy Credits is that they can be sold on the market to offset carbon outputs - the City of Bloomington purchased RECs to make our solar aggregation feel "green" last year.

I would like to know where this \$12,000 per year from the sale of the 65 RECs being generated each year is going to go.

I feel like it should be applied against the \$135,000 balance each year that we are rebating in sales taxes. I understand that they might not be able to install the panels without the City helping with the \$135,000 up front, but that \$12,000 in REC sales each year needs to come back to the City in some fashion.

Staff Response: Austin Grammer, Economic Development Coordinator

It is City staff's understanding that the value of the Renewable Energy Credits (REC) detailed in the quote for the solar panel array proposed for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore is an estimate and that the actual value for the RECs will be determined at the time the credits are sold and could be more or less than estimated in the quote document. Additionally, the electrical output of the proposed solar panel array may vary from year to year based on the weather which could increase or decrease the projected savings Habitat achieves from reduced utility bills. City staff and

representatives from Habitat took these variabilities into account while evaluating how to best structure the incentive agreement and determined that it could be administratively burdensome on both the City and Habitat to implement an agreement which would require some form of payback from Habitat to the City should Habitat realize additional savings from the project.

Staff feels the overarching intent of the proposed municipal financial assistance for the solar panel array project is to assist Habitat with reducing its operational overhead costs of the ReStore which savings Habitat has stated it plans to use to increase investment in affordable housing in McLean County. Additional new homes built by Habitat in the city (and existing homes repaired by Habitat in the city) will directly benefit the city through increased assessed values of property which leads to stable to increased property tax revenue being generated by those Habitat improved properties for the city and the other local overlapping taxing districts.

Council Question: Alderman Jamie Mathy

9D:

Section C:

- I have huge concerns over our ability to create, implement, and manage this program for less than \$200,000.
- What consists of a business to be registered? Is it a business located in Bloomington, or doing business in Bloomington?
- Do LLCs formed to own properties count a business? (I know some property owners who have every building in a separate LLC for liability reasons - would they have to pay \$50 for every building owned?)
- What about someone who sells Mary Kay / Avon from their house?
- How about the person who runs an Etsy.com store to sell hand-crafted products?
- What about Farmers' Market booths?

Staff Response: Bob Mahrt, Interim Director of Community Development

Business Registration Program is still in the discussion phase, so the questions on program implementation are valid.

The Business Registration Program has been preliminarily discussed with IT for a customer services portal to be implemented on or about January 1, 2019. This program would be similar to existing programs administered by the Community Development Department (i.e. Rental Property Inspection Program with 3,000 properties and approximately 300 in the Contractor Registration Program).

Generally, the businesses to be registered would have a permanent physical presence (i.e. premises) in Bloomington. At this time, Staff is considering requiring business registration, but exempting Home Occupations, government, religious and not-for-profits from paying associated fees.

It should be understood that solicitors and itinerant merchants (door to door sales) are already required to register their services through the City Clerk's Office.