

**AUGUST 8, 2011-COUNCIL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
AND STAFF RESPONSES
AS OF MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2011 AT 7:00 AM**

Alderman Sage

Item: 6- “Appointments”

Question/Comment: “I’ll have some questions/comments. I’ve asked for some additional information from the City Clerk’s Office.”

Staff Response: Alderman Sage has requested initial appointment dates to the Planning Commission on the following members; Greg Shaw, Ken DuLac, Julie Morton, Tyhad Harrison, Susan Brandt, and Bill Schultz. City Manager Hales will address during his discussion.

Alderwoman McDade

Item: 7C- “Appointment to the BNPT System and Reappointments to the Planning Commission”

Question/Comment: “I’m interested in understanding how many applications are on file (a total number), for what positions (just a number per position would be fine), and which of these appointees (if any) were identified using the application process. I spoke with a resident this weekend that is very interested in the BNPTS Board and has shared this interest with our city, and I just want to ensure that he is also considered for any vacancies. I am concerned if we have established a process that we are not actually using for its stated purpose.”

Staff Response: Airport Authority – 1, Liquor Commission – 2, Evergreen Cemetery – 1, Property Maintenance Review – 3, Planning Commission – 5, Zoning – 2, BNPTS – 2, Beautification – 3, Regional Planning – 1, Cultural District – 2, EDC – 1, Human Relations – 2, Board of Fire & Police Commissioners – 1, Historic Preservation – 1,

Alderman Anderson

Item: 7D- “Payment for participation for EJustice Support”

Question/Comment: “Prior to the change in ownership, how was EJustice supported financially?”

Staff Response: The original contract with EJustice required no maintenance fee until the conclusion of the development of the program. After the development was completed, the agreement called for \$1.00 per year for eight years. The agreement was thrown out because the original company went through Bankruptcy Court and all considerations/agreements were lost at that time. The fee of \$140,000 per year is now charged by the company (which emerged after the bankruptcy court) that now owns the software program.

Alderman Anderson

Item: 7E- “Analysis of Proposals for 2011 Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract”

Question/Comment: “Because of the request to reject, is there belief that needed repair costs will be near previous rates charged?”

Staff Response: These maintenance contracts were placed out for bid in an effort to be as competitive as possible. The pricing in the single bid that was received does not appear to be in line with work completed within the last year. It is Staff’s hope that the pricing that was received for upcoming work of this nature will be in line with pricing that Staff has seen in the past.

Alderman Fruin

Item: 7H- “Bids for One Six-Yard Rear Load Packer for Parks”

Question/Comment: “I would like to know how many Departments/Bargaining units pick up garbage and whether there are some resulting inefficiencies with overlapping coverage and independent equipment. Just looking for some further education in “today’s world” and whether we are working toward potential efficiency gains. If need be, I’m happy to ask specific questions Monday night.”

Staff Response: The Public Works Department and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department are the only two City Departments that pick up garbage.

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Alderman Mwilambwe

Item: 7H- “Bids for One Six-Yard Rear Load Packer for Parks”

Question/Comment: “Does this option give us the most bang for our buck or are we settling? Are we confident that this will be the lowest bid when we consider the life cycle of maintenance? Can you give more details about the three different choices in front of us?”

Staff Response: The recommended unit met all of the bid requirements. The body is from the manufacture of the current Packer that is being used, with which we have had very good service. The bids were from three (3) different manufactures. The bids that were not selected did not meet the requirements in different areas. The exceptions they took were use of thinner steel in the construction, did not meet the floor design, and lower usable cubic yard hoppers. Hopper size is needed to keep trash from falling out when emptying a 55 gallon barrel into the Packer. The chassis for all three bids was a 2012 International 4300 that were spec out the same with only minor differences. The Superintendent of Parks went to the Urbana Parks District to look at a truck that had the selected body. The Operator gave a favorable report on ease of operation and the maintenance staff reported only routine minor maintenance issues. This unit has an automated barrel tipper to reduce injuries caused by lifting.

Alderman Sage

Item: 7H – “Bids for One Six-Yard Rear Load Packer for Parks”

Question/Comment: “Will this \$100K purchase inhibit us in any way as we move forward with Performance Excellence (Managed Competition)?

Staff Response: No it will not.

Alderwoman McDade

Item: 7J- “Application for the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts Liquor License”

Question/Comment: “I’m interested in a general update on the Liquor Commission work on the concerns voiced by several Council Members (and shared with the whole group), including myself. I hope we are moving quickly towards a resolution and considering a more proactive approach. I’m concerned that we are now considering a license for a city-owned venue, but our concerns are impacting the ability of private businesses to get a license. This seems a bit self-serving.”

Staff Response: This question has been deferred to the Mayor for a response.

Alderman Mwilambwe

Item: 7J- “Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts Liquor License”

Questions/Comment: “When would the BCPA staff complete training and when would they begin to serve alcohol? How much (approximately) profit is the BCPA hoping to “recoup” by serving alcohol?”

Staff Response: The exact date is yet to be established, but should occur the first week of September. Staff intends to begin the alcohol service for our first Mainstage event of the season on September 9th. It training is not completed by that time our current Concessionaire is prepared to provide this service as needed until the training is completed. Estimate annual profit is expected to be approximately \$30,000.

Alderwoman McDade

Item: 9B- “Liquor License for Sidetracked Sports Bar”

Question/Comment: “With a few exceptions, I don’t see many changes to this application”

Staff Response: This question has been deferred to the Mayor for a response.

Alderman Mwilambwe

Item: 9B – “Sidetracked Sports Bar Liquor License”

Question/Comment: “This question is related to the application but also more general. Have we at any point considered what the appropriate noise exposure should be from an Audiologist’s perspective?”

Staff Response: This question has been deferred to the Mayor for a response.

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Alderman Sage

Item: 9B – “Sidetracked Sports Bar Liquor License”

Question/Comment: “If I correctly understand the Mayor’s Report, it seems this is being returned to the Council with few, if any changes. Can the specific changes, different than the last time Council reviewed, be individually listed?”

Staff Response: This question has been deferred to the Mayor for a response.

Alderman Fruin

Item: 9C – “Redistricting of City Wards Prior to 2013

Question/Comment: “I would like to hear the opinions of fellow Council Members to the questions/issues that have been raised over the past 2-3 months.”

Staff Response: No response.

Additional Council Questions/Comments from Councilman Fruin

1. I would like to have more information on the upcoming Blue’s at the Mansion event. Do we have a policy on allowing alcohol at one day events within established neighborhoods? From the David Davis Mansion website, it is advertised as a 10 hour event. Our past history has raised concerns with the availability of alcohol in residential areas.
2. Have we finalized dates for our Strategic Planning Session in October?
3. I would like remaining comments from those who have yet to respond on the issue of Mayor and Council Salaries?

Prepared by:
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