

CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS – STAFF RESPONSES
RECEIVED AS OF APRIL 24, 2011 AT 10:36 PM
FOR APRIL 25, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

Councilperson: Bernie Anderson

Item 6B: Consent Agenda- “Change Order to a Professional Services Agreement with AECOM”

Question/Comment: “Why was this not identified during the review of this project? Would the contractor not be able to identify this?”

Staff Response: Actually this change order is not part of the scope of the original project which was the design of the new high efficiency carbon dioxide system. During the review of the carbon dioxide project, it was noted that some of the construction work to be done on that project was very similar to another project the Water Department was working on, the upgrade of a sludge transfer vault. When the similarities in the construction techniques of the two projects were examined, Staff determined it would be cost effective to bid the construction of these two separate, but alike, projects at one time, as a package. The sludge transfer vault project was much smaller in scope than the carbon dioxide project and thus merging it with a larger, similar project made sense as the City would probably be the beneficiary of the economies of scale. Additionally, if the projects were designed, bid and constructed separately, paying perhaps two different contractors to construct similar jobs at nearly the same time, this would probably result in higher construction costs with two separate mobilizations, two separate construction bonds, insurance, etc.

Since we already had a design firm under contract for the carbon dioxide project and we were working on a similar project in close proximity to the carbon dioxide project, the City approached that design firm for a quotation to add the design of the sludge vault upgrades to their current contract with the idea that we would bid both projects together as one large project. That was done and we have a very cost effective package for the two projects which has already been bid and accepted.

Councilperson: Jim Fruin

Item 6D: Consent Agenda- “Reappointments to Boards and Commissions”

Question/Comment: “I am very glad to see the background date provided by staff, prior to reappointments. Thank you. I assume every Board or Commission member understands the City Council interest in their personal attendance/contributions/value that they bring to their respective Board or Commission. We have some terrific and well qualified people on board.”

Staff Response: Members of the Boards and Commission do understand the need to attend their perspective Board/Commission meetings regularly and they value the confidence that the City Council puts in them.

Councilperson: Bernie Anderson

Item 6E: Consent Agenda- “Approval of a Microwave Vehicle Detection System Purchase for 2011 General Resurfacing.”

Question/Comment: “Help clarify this part of the resurfacing bid. Was this part of the proposed bid?”

Staff Response: Typically, vehicle detection maintenance and modifications are included in the resurfacing bid. Staff was not able to negotiate a reasonable price with

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the contractor for this item. Staff was able to purchase the equipment separately and install the needed improvements to the traffic signal detection at a significant cost savings for the City. Purchasing the equipment outside of the resurfacing contract necessitated a separate City Council memo for the equipment.

Councilperson: Jim Fruin

Item 6E: Consent Agenda- “Approval of a Microwave Vehicle Detection System Purchase for 2011 General Resurfacing.”

Question/Comment: “Do we have a philosophy or practice on when we use Vehicle Detection Systems? They seem to be a nice convenience, but I don’t know when, where, how often we place them. Clarification would be appreciated. Thank you.”

Staff Response: Every traffic signal must use some system to cycle the cars through. Some traffic signals such as the Business 51 corridor use a pre-timed system that doesn’t detect vehicles. Other signals use a vehicle detection system either in conjunction with a master timing plan or as a stand-alone signal. The traffic signal at the intersection of Lincoln and Arcadia must have a vehicle detection system because of its proximity to the Lincoln and Veterans Parkway traffic signal.

Councilperson: Bernie Anderson

Item 6F: Consent Agenda- “Analysis of Bids for Cleaning and Disposal of the Lime Dust from the Lime Storage Room at the Water Treatment Plant.”

Question/Comment: “What I am reading under the financial impact is; this was not budgeted but we come within budget!”

Staff Response: You are reading the memo correctly in that this specific project was not budgeted in the Water Departments FY 11 budget. We have been working on the replacement of this system but it has finally failed before it could be included in a given years capital budget. With the immediate nature of its failure and the overall cost threshold requiring this project to be handled as a capital project, it is being constructed within the FY 11 capital budget, which should still be under budget at year end. There are various other projects in the FY 11 capital budget that have either come in lower than expected when the projects were bid or other projects are not as far along as expected at this time. This means there are dollars left in the capital budget that can be redirected to this more pressing project while still finishing the FY under budget for these expenses.

Councilperson: Bernie Anderson

Item 6G: Consent Agenda- “Renewal of Towing Contract 10,000 GVW and Under to Joe’s Towing and Recovery.”

Question/Comment: “I am hopeful that if this contract comes up next year, it will be put out for bid. It is understood the importance of relationships with vendors, but not resulting in multi year contracts without bid.”

Staff Response: The Public Works Department is in favor of bidding contracts when there is the chance of soliciting competitive bids from multiple vendors for the requested service. If there is the opportunity for multiple vendors to competitively bid on this service next year, the contract will be bid. The current vendor has provided good service and has paid the City for the ability to provide the service.

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Prepared by:
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