

Council Questions/Comments and Staff Responses Report for July 14, 2014

as of July 14, 2013 at 4:10 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Question/Comment: Are we any closer to drafting a policy regarding Private Roads of which Bloomington has nearly 46 miles?

Staff Response: Because of the lack of staff resources and other pressing needs City staff has not made any progress on this matter.

CONSENT AGENDA

Alderman: Judy Stearns

Item 7D: Request for Proposals (RFP) and Approval of Contract with WDM Design for Design/Construction Oversight of Flamingo Exhibit and Design of South American Exhibit at the Miller Park Zoo. (That the RFP be awarded to WDM Architects, Wichita, KS, in the amount of \$74,950, and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents, and any associated contracts approved in form and substance by Corporation Counsel.

Question/Comment: Under financial impact is the statement, "The Zoological society is paying \$100,000.00 for the Flamingo Project and the City portion will be \$250,000.00. This total consists of 100% of the South American design and 40% of the total flamingo project."

What is the total cost of the flamingo project?

What is the total cost of the South American design?

How and when are decisions about spending zoological society funds made?

Many constituents are asking me how this fits into the much discussed 17 million dollar zoo expansion?

Staff Response:

What is the total cost of the flamingo project?

\$250,000. Cost breakdown---City=\$150,000, \$100,000 Miller Park Zoological Society (MPZS)

What is the total cost of the South American design?

\$21,820 -- 100% paid for by MPZS.

How and when are decisions about spending zoological society funds made?

The MPZS Board makes their decisions during board meetings which occur once per month. The MPZS mission is to support the Miller Park Zoo. MPZS has partnered with the Zoo in funding the Master Plan. Zoo professional consultants were hired to work with Zoo Staff and complete the Zoo's Master and Strategic Plan. The MPZS follows the recommendations by the Zoo Superintendent. MPZS has agreed to fund 60% of the total cost of the Master Plan.

Many constituents are asking me how this fits into the much discussed 17 million dollar zoo expansion?

All of the projects for the Zoo that have been recommended follow the Zoo's Master Plan that was approved by Council on January 13, 2014. The flamingo exhibit has always been the first project prioritized.

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Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 7D: Request for Proposals (RFP) and Approval of Contract with WDM Design for Design/Construction Oversight of Flamingo Exhibit and Design of South American Exhibit at the Miller Park Zoo.

Question/Comment: Why were the actual bids of the four bidders not included in the recommendation?

Staff Response: Staff oversight. The bids are as follows:

Architectural Expressions LLP -- \$10,000 for two workshops then negotiate rest of contract
WDM Architects -- \$74,950

ELM Inc. -- \$91,380

Zoo Design, Inc. -- \$100,480

Alderman: Judy Stearns

Item 7O: Application of Smith Family Enterprises, Ltd., d/b/a The Lincoln Springs Center, located at 1611 S. Morrissey Dr., Unit 1, requesting an EAS liquor license. (Recommend that an EAS liquor license for Smith Family Enterprises, Ltd., d/b/a The Lincoln Springs Center, located at 1611 S. Morrissey Dr., Unit 1, be created, contingent upon compliance with all applicable health and safety codes.)

Question/Comment: This establishment will be a rental facility or type of "banquet hall" which will be granted its own liquor license.

Has this ever happened before in Bloomington? I believe this facility will be eligible to apply for video gaming.

What steps are taken to insure that this does not become a video gaming concern?

Staff Response: Per applicant's request, this item has been removed from the agenda of July 14, 2014. It will appear on the August 11, 2014 Council meeting.

Alderman: Judy Stearns

Item 7Q: Text Amendment to Chapter 35 Regarding the Composition of the Police Department. (Recommend that the Ordinance be passed.)

Question/Comment: The statement "their appointments shall be made on no other basis than that of merit and fitness" indicates that we will no longer be considering their tenure or record with the Bloomington Police Department. This seems to change the prior criteria that the Operations Captain will be designated from the ranks of Sergeant or Lieutenant (in other words chosen from the Bloomington Police Department) I believe there is much merit in promoting officers from within the department whenever possible and when they are fully qualified.

Is this a part of the "culture change" we have been hearing about?

Staff Response: The first consideration for an appointment to the Assistant Chief position (do not have Operations Captain) should come from within the Department. However, when interest from within the Department is minimal, or those who have expressed interest are not suitable for the position at the time, then the option to select someone from outside the Department has to be utilized. The provision in the existing ordinance in regards to appointments being made on no other basis than merit and fitness has not changed, and the option of appointing a person from outside the Department has not been changed either.

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 7Q: Text Amendment to Chapter 35 Regarding the Composition of the Police Department.

Question/Comment: Is this an increase in 2004 of one Assistant Police Chief to three Assistant Police Chief positions?

Staff Response: The Police Department has had two Assistant Chiefs of Police since 2009, if not before.

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Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 7R: Petitions from CarMax Auto Superstores Inc. for approval of an Easement Vacation and an Easement Dedication located in Lot 2, JOS Subdivision. (Recommend that the Vacation and Dedication be approved and the Ordinances passed.)

Question/Comment: Did the Zoning Board of Appeals review and approve this?

Staff Response: No.

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 7S: Acceptance of Deed for Lot 22, Tenth (10th) Addition to Hawthorne Commercial Park Subdivision. (Recommend that the land be accepted and the deed recorded.)

Question/Comment: Is the newly dedicated park on 2.4 acres going to be at the expense of the Developer or the City?

Staff Response: At the expense of the City.

REGULAR AGENDA

Alderman: Judy Stearns

Item 8A: Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of not to exceed \$26,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Refunding the 2004 Coliseum Bond of said City and Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on said Bonds, and approval of an agreement authorizing Chapman and Cutler, LLP to act as the City's Bond Counsel. (Recommend that the Ordinance be passed, and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents.)

Question/Comment: The ordinance states that in order to pay the interest on the bonds and the principle at maturity, there will be levied on the taxable property "a direct annual tax sufficient for that purpose. . . .in addition to all other taxes of the City the following direct annual taxes (the Ad Valorem Property Taxes)" and then amounts for each year are listed.

How will these Ad Valorem Property Taxes be reflected in our tax levy which will affect property taxes? Please explain the statement, "the City will take no action or fail to take any action which in any way would adversely affect the ability of the City to levy and collect the Ad Valorem Property Taxes?" Can you give an example of what such an action would be?

How can citizens clearly see which part of our tax levy is for these bond payments?

Have we begun to determine what our next tax levy will be (just the City portion) and how it might affect property taxes?

Staff Response:

How will these Ad Valorem Property Taxes be reflected in our tax levy which will affect property taxes?

The debt service for the 2004 Coliseum Bond is actually paid from sales taxes and the statement about property taxes is a backup of security for the bonds but has never been used.

Please explain the statement, "the City will take no action or fail to take any action which in any way would adversely affect the ability of the City to levy and collect the Ad Valorem Property Taxes?" Can you give an example of what such an action would be?

This statement is to ensure that the City will put debt service at the highest priority and will not make any changes that could impair the City's ability to collect the taxes.

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How can citizens clearly see which part of our tax levy is for these bond payments?

A breakout of debt service payments can be found in the second of our budget books under Debt Service Funds.

Have we begun to determine what our next tax levy will be (just the City portion) and how it might affect property taxes?

Alderman: Judy Stearns

Item 8C: Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Hanson Professional Services Inc. for Development of a Streets Master Plan. (Recommend that the formal bid process be waived, the agreement with Hanson Professional Services Inc. be approved, in an amount not to exceed \$99,948, the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents, and the Resolution be adopted.) (20 minutes)

Question/Comment: What is the current streets plan that you are operating under? What is the source of the City's current street maintenance and resurfacing program? How do you evaluate the economic development potential for major projects? Is it based on the money spent on the project? What other factors are considered? What kind of input will you be seeking from "stakeholders?"

Staff Response:

What is the current streets plan that you are operating under?

The listing of street improvement projects that have been identified by staff in the past, but have not yet been funded for construction. Most of the projects have been shown in the Long Range Transportation Plan and the City's Comprehensive Plan for some time. The priority of the projects shifts based on other funding opportunities such as state or federal grants. The City currently lacks a clear and detailed methodology for prioritizing street projects.

What is the source of the City's current street maintenance and resurfacing program?

Streets which are the City's maintenance responsibility are evaluated at least once every three years and given a pavement rating based on the PASER scale of 1 to 10 where 10 is a new pavement. These ratings help determine the priority of streets to be resurfaced along with traffic volumes and street classification. Streets which are classified as arterials and carry a higher volume of traffic take priority over residential streets. This information is tracked in the City's GIS - Geographic Information System. The City's current street maintenance program does not include crack filling which has been adopted by many other jurisdictions.

How do you evaluate the economic development potential for major projects? Is it based on the money spent on the project? What other factors are considered?

When this type of analysis is done, it is currently on a case by case basis. The proposed Streets Master Plan will incorporate some of these other factors as detailed in the Scope of Services.

What kind of input will you be seeking from "stakeholders?"

As the details of the streets master plan are developed, we will have a public meeting to explain the details and seek public input before it is finalized.

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Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8E: Text Amendment to Chapter 2. Administration, regarding Public Comment at Meetings.
(Recommend that the Ordinance be passed.)

Question/Comment: My opposition to the proposal is two-fold: 1. The same people should be prohibited from monopolizing the public comment time by speaking at every meeting. 2. If more than five people desire to speak, the drawing should allow those who have not spoken previously to have a priority over those who have previously spoken.

Staff Response: The City has been in communication with the Public Access Counselor and will recommend that after brief comments this item be tabled for two weeks.

Prepared by: Tracey Covert, City Clerk