

# Council Questions/Comments and Staff Responses Report for September 22, 2014

*as of September 22, 2014 at 1:45 pm*

**GENERAL COMMENTS:** Item 7L. Text Amendment to Chapter 4. Acknowledging elimination of a fee.

**Alderman:** Sage

**Staff Response:**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Alderman:** Sage

**Item:** 7C. Waive Bid for Water Sample Analysis.

**Question/Comment:** Understand rationale for using outside laboratory. Last time put out for bid? Time to check for other service providers.

**Staff Response:** Quotations, (oral/verbal), were solicited to provide a clear understanding of pricing. A table providing these costs has been provided:

Laboratory	Compliance Drinking Water	Environmental
PDC	\$6,809.00	\$93,925
McHenry Analytical	\$9,380.00	\$133,820
IEPA	\$11,620.29	Not available

Water staff cannot recall when or if, in the past, the City issued a written bid solicitation for water sample analysis. PDC is the only qualified laboratory in Central Illinois that staff is aware of, that can perform this service without including postage and shipping costs. PDC sends a courier to the Water Treatment Plant to pick up all water samples and transports them back to their facility.

The IEPA has not received any water compliance reports from the City. It is critical to move forward with PDC. City staff plans to issue a written bid solicitation in the spring 2015 for Fiscal Year 2016.

**Alderman:** Sage

**Item:** 7G. Bicycle Lanes.

**Question/Comment:** Any unintended impact on street parking?

**Staff Response:** Please refer to the Council memorandum. Letters were mailed to adjacent residents on both the north and south sides of Jersey Ave. A letter of support was received from a City resident and a letter of concern was received from a Normal resident. City staff reached out to the Town of Normal to insure that the concern raised, (i.e. removing on street parking from the south side of the street), did not impact Normal’s support of this item. The Town’s continued support was linked to the Town’s previous action to remove parking along one side of the street west of this area.

Work continues on the Bike Master Plan. The Bike Master Plan subcommittee will meet in October 2014 to review the recommendations. The hope is to present the Bike Master Plan to the Council within thirty (30) days from the review meeting. Tonight’s proposal will be included in the Plan as it connects to existing bike lanes in Normal and also to a major employer.

**Alderman:** Mwilambwe

**Item:** 7C. Waive Bid for Water Sample Analysis.

**Question/Comment:** Statement “IEPA takes too long to process requests”, please provide examples (i.e. days, months).

**Staff Response:** IEPA Laboratory is unable to process “rush” requests. Specific sampling windows are provided to allow workflow scheduling. The result is less flexibility to collect regulatory samples and analyzed at the start of a sampling period. PDC Laboratories have sufficient resources to provide

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scheduling flexibility, as well as email alerts. The IEPA cannot offer this service. Notification of potential problems has been shorted from two (2) weeks to one to two (1 – 2) days.

Prepared by: Tracey Covert, City Clerk