

**Council Questions/Comments and Staff Responses Report for October 27, 2014**  
*as of October 27, 2014 at 8:20 am*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Alderman Joni Painter:**

**Item 6E:** Waiver of Request for Proposal for Leaf & Grass Disposal.

**Question/Comment:** Why are we paying a farmer to take leaves and grass? It is free compost for him and he is charging the City. In my opinion, he should pay the City.

**Staff Response:** Leaves & grass are a commodity similar to recycling material. Over the years, the City has paid for our recycling to a vendor and received money for the recycling material. Ultimately, it is a free market commodity that depends upon the supply and demand for the item. In the case of leaves and grass, most farmers do not have the equipment or the desire to land apply the material. Because of this, it is not a high demand commodity and the City has to pay a farmer for receiving the material. If market factors change so that the commodity is in higher demand, the City might be able to receive funds in the future on a publicly bid contract.

**Alderman Joni Painter:**

**Item 6E:** Waiver of Request for Proposal for Leaf & Grass Disposal.

**Question/Comment:** Does the City take the leaves & grass to the farmer, or does the farmer pick them up?

**Staff Response:** City trucks deliver the leaves & grass to the farmer's field and dump them in a pile at the edge of the field for the farmer to load into his equipment for land application. City provides delivery and the farmer performs the distribution.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Alderman Judy Stearns**

**Item 7E:** Proposed Tax Levy, (City and Levy), & Adoption of Estimated Levy.

**Question/Comment:** *Question 1.* If the tax levy stays the same as last year to the dollar and the estimated assessed value goes up, the actual property tax bill would go down?

*Question 2.* I believe the utility tax was put in place to fund pensions. Please explain what the revenue from this tax has been to date?

*Question 3.* How will utility tax revenue be tracked to insure they are set aside for pensions?

**Staff Response:** *Question 1.* Yes, if the same tax levy was levied again to the dollar and the EAV (Equalized Assessed Value) remains increased, (assessed values), then it is projected that the property tax would go down. This is the trend up to increasing the levy \$500,000.

*Question 2.* Yes, the increase in the utility tax was put in place to fund Police & Fire Pensions. Revenue estimates will be presented this evening.

*Question 3.* With the exception of the telecommunications tax which has not gone into effect yet; Finance staff utilizes consumption data to multiply by the new rate and old rate to determine the dollar increase.

Prepared by: Tracey Covert, City Clerk