

**CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS/STAFF RESPONSES REPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA FOR MARCH 12, 2012 AS OF MARCH 11, 2012 AT 11:16 PM**

**Alderman:** Bernie Anderson

**Item 7C: Consent Agenda** –“Amendment to the Banner Software Maintenance Contract”

**Question/Comment:** “We will come to a point where Banner Software will be retired in its entirety!”

**Staff Response:** Staff expects the Banner software to be retired and used in an archival state only by the end of calendar year 2012.

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 7D: Consent Agenda** –“Amendment to Brush Disposal Contract”

**Question/Comment:** “When will the fee of \$14 reverting or not reverting be addressed by City Council?”

**Staff Response:** Garbage fee will be discussed during the March 31, 2012 Budget Work Session.

**Alderwoman:** Karen Schmidt

**Item 7D: Consent Agenda** –“Amendment to Brush Disposal Contract”

**Question/Comment:** “Where are we on the review of the various components of trash pick-up, including bulk waste? I appreciate our looking to other communities for their practice in handling brush. Do we have the costs that are associated with these other community practices?”

**Staff Response:** Public Works, Finance, and Administration are still working through the indirect costs and resource allocation issues needed to break out the actual costs of each of the different solid waste services provided by the City. Staff has some information from other communities on their overall cost, but Bloomington Staff is not aware of any other communities that are going to this extent to find full cost recovery in each service. There are not standards currently for reporting these costs.

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 7E: Consent Agenda** – “Purchase Spray Park Play Apparatuses Through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Member #25014”

**Question/Comment:** “I very much like the NJPA for obtaining competitive bids. The photos made it quite easy to see the changes proposed.”

**Staff Response:** Staff is committed to finding the most efficient procurement practices to solicit competitive bids on purchases.

**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 7E: Consent Agenda** –“Purchase Spray Park Play Apparatuses Through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Member #25014”

**Question/Comment:** “What is the timeline for installation of new equipment?”

**Staff Response:** It is the goal of Staff to have all items installed prior to our normal spray park opening scheduled for mid to late May. This will be dependent upon receiving delivery from the manufacturer in a timely fashion. Staff is confident that the goal will be met.

**Alderman:** Bernie Anderson

**Item 7E: Consent Agenda** –“Purchase Spray Park Play Apparatuses Through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Member #25014”

**Question/Comment:** “It is stated that the funds are available; were they budgeted? In addition, if we are going to ask to approve items that were not budgeted, we should be showing the department fund balance!”

**Staff Response:** Funds were budgeted and approved in the FY2012 Park Maintenance budget for the purchase of the surfacing and spray park apparatus in the amount of \$69,000.

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**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 7F: Consent Agenda** –“Purchase Spray Park Surfacing for McGraw Park Through U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (USCGPA)”

**Question/Comment:** “What is the timeline for installation of new equipment?”

**Staff Response:** Staff’s goal is to have the installation completed by the normal spray park opening schedule of mid to late May. This will be dependent upon receiving the delivery from the manufacturer in a timely fashion. Staff is confident that the goal will be met.

**Alderman:** Bernie Anderson

**Item 7F: Consent Agenda** –“Purchase Spray Park Surfacing for McGraw Park Through U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (USCGPA)”

**Question/Comment:** “It is stated that the funds are available; were they budgeted? In addition. If we are going to ask to approve items that were not budgeted, we should be showing the department fund balance!”

**Staff Response:** Funds were budgeted and approved in FY2012 Park Maintenance Budget for the purchase of the surfacing and spray park apparatus in the amount of \$69,000.

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 7G: Consent Agenda** –“Analysis of Bids Installation of Two (2) Rotating Elements for Two (2) Booster Pumps at the Fort Jesse Road Pump Station”

**Question/Comment:** “Why is there such a wide discrepancy in the two bids of \$18,908? My concern is the quality of what is being purchased?”

**Staff Response:** This is purely speculation on Staff’s part, but suspects that the high bidder was extremely cautious with their bid as it is the first time this Company has bid on any City of Bloomington projects. Concerning the quality of the project, the specifications clearly indicated the kind of equipment to be used and any bidder must meet those specifications. That being said, one company compared to another; purchasing equipment with the same specifications can have a wide variation in price based on volume, repeat business, familiarity of the firm and other factors. Lastly, there is some labor factored into this project, keeping in mind that one company’s labor and overheads may be higher than another.

**Alderman:** Karen Schmidt

**Item 7G: Consent Agenda** –“Analysis of Bids Installation of Two (2) Rotating Elements for Two (2) Booster Pumps at the Fort Jesse Road Pump Station”

**Question/Comment:** “Same question as Alderman Fazzini, why is there such a large difference in the two bids?”

**Staff Response:** Same response as above.

**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 7G: Consent Agenda** –“Analysis of Bids Installation of Two (2) Rotating Elements for Two (2) Booster Pumps at the Fort Jesse Road Pump Station”

**Question/Comment:** “When repair is underway, do we expect any disruption to water service and if so what areas of the city?”

**Staff Response:** There are no anticipated water service interruptions with this repair work. There are several pumps (a total of seven) that can be used in place of the unit that is being repaired. In addition, the repair itself should be done quickly, with at most a two day down time.

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**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 7I: Consent Agenda** –“Liquor Application of PATH for a fundraiser on April 5, 2012”

**Question/Comment:** “There was no indication of a Liquor Commission vote to recommend this to City Council, but only that the Liquor Commission “did not see any problem with the event. Is that satisfactory?”

**Staff Response:** The actual authority by statute and local ordinance to decide matters which are brought before the Liquor Commission is vested in the Mayor as Liquor Commissioner. The other appointed members of the Liquor Commission technically serve in an advisory capacity. It is up to the discretion of the Mayor on how much of his or her authority is to be delegated to the Commission; technically, no vote is required.

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 8A: Regular Agenda** –“Purchase of Two (2) International Navistar 4300 Medtec Additional Duty Type I Ambulances”

**Question/Comment:** “This item indicates voting by Aldermen Huette, Hanson, Finnegan and Gibson. Also, could you explain what an “unreserved reserve” means?”

**Staff Response:** Staff has corrected the “motion” with the correct Aldermen names. Unreserved funds can be defined as the City financial reserves that are not committed nor assigned for other projects or commitments. These funds may be used to financially support the City’s operations.

**Alderwoman:** Karen Schmidt

**Item 8A: Regular Agenda** –“Purchase of Two (2) International Navistar 4300 Medtec Additional Duty Type I Ambulances”

**Question/Comment:** “I am confused about which ambulances are having the problems that are described in the first paragraph of the “Background” section. It references two engines that we have not had delivered but appears to detail problems we are experiencing with them. Can you clarify when this regular agenda item is introduced?”

**Staff Response:** The Fire Department has 7 Ambulances in its fleet. Four (4) are front line running out of Stations 1, 2, 3 and 4. We have two (2) reserve units. These are fully stocked and are put into service if an issue arises with a front line unit. They are also used for stand by events such as High School football, Coliseum Events and other contracted services. The last unit is an unstocked unit that is kept in case of a long term maintenance issue with another unit. During the past year, this unit has been moved up to reserve since August of last year because of the amount of times that front line units have been down for maintenance issues.

Early in this fiscal year, Council approved purchase of two (2) ambulances to replace two (2) of the front line units. The two being replaced are both 2005 Ford units. These units have been plagued with maintenance issues, including an engine fire and constant oil pressure issues. Both have had engine replacements, one has had two (2). These engines in general are part of a Class Action Lawsuit out of Texas at present. There are other area Departments that are using the same product and have experienced the same issues (Hudson, Bloomington Township, and Normal FDs). When the new ambulances arrive (projected to arrive in late June or early July), the 2005 units will be taken out of the FD fleet. The other two front line units (2006 and 2008) were to be included in the FY 12-13 budget, with these units being moved from front line to reserve status. We will then move a 1999 and 2002 out of the fleet. There is no perfect methodology for moving units from front line to reserve, and from reserve out of operations. Part is maintenance issues with the units and part is age. The front line units must be

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reliable units for emergency services. The 2005 units are not reliable and have had major issues on a frequent basis which does not leave them open for use in a reserve status. Our two reserve units have been pressed into full time use this year as a result of all these issues and now are also showing their age. As a result, we have seen the need to replace these units as well.

Our Ambulances are extremely busy units. We have averaged about 9,700 calls per year from 2009 to present. This means we average one call every 54 minutes. With an average EMS call time of 45 minutes per call; these units are heavily used as they also respond to Fire calls to provide enough personnel to operate on scene. The present program for Ambulances is to move units from front line to reserve after 5-6 years, and then to keep them for a total of 8 years. There is no perfect program to replace units. Age (year), hours used and maintenance issues all play a role. We use a combination of these to determine the needs. The most important factor is the reliability of the unit based on maintenance. Due to the large amount of reliability issues with the Ford units, Fire worked with Fleet to identify International as a viable alternative that will hopefully give us more reliability, less maintenance issues and down time, and a longer useful life. While not determined yet, we believe that we may be able to move to a 10 year life with the new units.

**Alderman:** Jim Fruin

**Item 8A: Regular Agenda** –“Purchase of Two (2) International Navistar 4300 Medtec Additional Duty Type I Ambulances”

**Question/Comment:** “Of particular interest is the order/purchase of two new ambulances, vs. maintenance costs and repairs. It is always unpopular to question Police/Fire requests, but ordering four ambulances in a short period of time creates the interest to know more about our practices, compared to other Central Illinois communities, to include number of vehicles in service, age, mileage, etc. I ‘m not asking for any heavy lifting here, but simply some conversation at the meeting. There is a fine balance to micro-managing and being financially accountable for our decisions”.

**Staff Response:** Please see response above. Additionally, keep in mind that 3 of the 4 units we are replacing/moving to reserve were all purchased within a two year period. The schedule we presently use would have them moving to reserve status, with new ambulances being purchased to move into the front line status. Instead, the two we are waiting for will replace the 2005 units, with these two being removed from our fleet based on the extensive maintenance issues. The ambulances asked for in this memo (2006 and 2008) are being moved from the upcoming budget at the request of Administration and Finance based on their recommendation. The need to purchase the 4<sup>th</sup> unit (2008) is to assist with the age and issues with the reserve fleet that have occurred due to the amount of in service time these units logged because of maintenance issues with front line units. The 2006 and 2008 units will be moved to reserve and a 2002 and 1999 unit will be removed from our fleet.

In Central Illinois, Bloomington and Normal are the only Full time Fire Departments that run transport EMS units. Our call volume is significantly greater than Normal’s, which makes comparing vehicle data difficult. We have surveyed other FDs on in service/ reserve times for Fire Apparatus and found our schedule to be longer than most other Departments. We are looking to work with Fleet to develop a more comprehensive plan for vehicle replacement in the future. The difficulty lies in a balance between age/hours used with reliability under 24 hour emergency operations. This makes a defined program a challenge.

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**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 8A: Regular Agenda** –“Purchase of Two (2) International Navistar 4300 Medtec Additional Duty Type I Ambulances”

**Question/Comment:** “What is the optimal number of ambulances needed to have an efficient/effective operation and how far are you from that goal? What is the life cycle of an ambulance (years or miles)?”

**Staff Response:** Please see above responses. In addition, we run 4 front line ambulances, many times all four are on calls at the same time. We are looking into utilization rates to determine if we have enough resources in place at present. The two reserve ambulances are kept fully stocked and ready to move into operation in the event of an ambulance needing service/repair, for special events (football, certain Coliseum events, etc.) or when we call in staff because of a major response (like the building collapse). The last unit is maintained unstocked in case of a catastrophic event that takes an ambulance out of service for a long period of time (such as an engine fire or replacement, or an accident). We are at that level right now, but we always have to rotate vehicles from front line to reserve and then out of our fleet. The 2005 units are due to move down, but based on their maintenance history and reliability, we are going to remove them from our fleet. We have attempted to use an 8 year total useful life with existing units.

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 8B: Regular Agenda** –“An Ordinance Amending the Operating Structure of the Bloomington-Normal Public Transportation System”

**Question/Comment:** “Would it not be more accurate to divide funding contribution from City and Town by miles of bus service in each community rather than population?”

**Staff Response:** It is possible to divide the funding contribution between the City and Town by miles of bus service in each community rather than population. Population was chosen because it has the advantage of simplicity. Miles of bus service may or may not accurately reflect ridership. It is possible that large stretches of roads do not cause an increase in ridership, although the buses must travel those roads in order to deliver persons from residential areas to retail or other areas. In addition, the Transit Board, rather than the municipalities, determines bus routes, so using miles of bus service would put the Transit Board in the position of being able to alter the municipal funding formula by changing bus routes. The Staff believes using population figures rather than miles of bus service would keep the Transit Board out of controversies related to the funding formula.

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**Additional Question/Comment that are not on the March 12, 2012 Council Agenda:**

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Question:** “When are the ten items on the Liquor Commission Hearing of March 13, 2012 going to come to City Council?”

**Staff Response:**

- Davis Lodge and Miller Park suspension of City Code - Council on April 9, 2012
- Correction to corporate name – does not appear before the Council
- Request for Text Amendment regarding hours for tastings - dependent upon Commission’s recommendation
- Change of Classification to add Class O, Outdoor Café - does not appear before the Council
- Pheasant Lanes and Little India – Council on April 9, 2012
- Liquor Violations (3) - do not appear before the Council

As a general rule, items that appear on the Liquor Commission Agenda will appear on the first Council meeting of the next month.

**Alderman:** Jim Fruin

**Comment:** “Sorry, for the late Sunday night reporting, but I have nothing to add to the Agenda questions already asked. Thanks again for those who share their weekend thoughts, and for the Staff responses. We all learn from each other. I sure wish we could learn from those who choose to ask verbal questions on Monday’s and how staff responds to them. Oh well.”

**Road Project Work Session for March 12, 2012**

**Alderwoman:** Judith Stearns

**Question:** “Can motor fuel tax be used for any other resurfacing or repair projects?”

**Staff Response:** Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds can be used for the following items:

- Construction and maintenance of any municipal street designated as a part of the federal aid primary, or the federal aid urban system of streets within the municipality.
- The construction and maintenance of municipal streets and alleys as may be designated by the corporate authorities and approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).
- The payment of engineering costs in connection with work described in this section of IDOT’s Code. The municipality may contract for such services with any professional engineer.
- The construction, maintenance, or repair of sidewalks in the municipality.

Prepared by:  
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