

# CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS/STAFF RESPONSES REPORT

June 25, 2012 Council Agenda - as of Sunday, June, 24, 2012 AT 11:39 PM

**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 6D:** Consent Agenda –“Purchase of Upgraded/Replacement Tasers and Accessories”

**Question/Comment:** “What is the frequency of use? Does each Officer have their own? Is this something they could share like squad cars to save on the cost of purchasing them or is that not practical/recommended? Hope to learn more!”

**Staff Response:** Frequency of use depends on officer/assignment/and shift. Each Officer is issued their own Taser. Staff has found this to be tremendously beneficial due to the fact that shared equipment rarely is cared for as is equipment assigned by serial number to a specific officer. In most departments our size and larger this is the case. The officer is assured that their Taser is in functioning condition, they have trained with their specific Taser, and also they are held accountable for its condition. We have also found that in agencies that provide squad cars to each officer for take home use, the cars last much longer and phantom damage to vehicles and equipment is virtually eliminated. Attached please find the “sole source letter” from Tazer International that lists Ray O’Herron as the sole supplier in our region for Tasers.

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 6D:** Consent Agenda –“Purchase of Upgraded/Replacement Tasers and Accessories”

**Question/Comment:** “Are we to believe that there is no other provider in the entire country that is able to sell this item?”

**Staff Response:** Attached please find the “sole source letter” from Tazer International that lists Ray O’Herron as the sole supplier in our region for Tasers. Another competing company went out of business a few years ago.

**Alderman:** Jim Fruin

**Item 6D:** Consent Agenda –“Purchase of Upgraded/Replacement Tasers and Accessories”

**Question/Comment:** “From first read, I am inclined to pull and make a motion that we request competitive bids. What I don’t know is (1) whether Staff has additional information or (2) how my colleagues feel about putting out for bid?”

**Staff Response:** Tazer International is the only company worldwide that manufactures these devices. Another competing company went out of business a few years ago. Attached please find the “sole source letter” from Tazer International that lists Ray O’Herron as the sole supplier in our region for Tasers.

**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Items 6E and 6F:** “Purchase of One (1) 2013 Ford Transit Connect for the Fire Department” and “Purchase of One (1) 2013 Ford Connect for the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department”

**Question/Comment:** “On the surface it looks like we are buying the same vehicle with the one with higher gas mileage being cheaper. I am assuming there is an explanation as to why we are not purchasing two of the vehicles with the higher gas mileage?”

**Staff Response:** The Transit connects are the same Specs with the exception of no side windows on the Zoo van for privacy when hauling zoo animals. That is the reason for the cost difference. The higher gas mileage is because the units that are being replaced are different makes and models that get different miles per gallon.

**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 6G:** “Purchase of Two (2) Ford F150 Pickup Trucks for the Water Department”

**Question/Comment:** Same question as in 6E and 6F

**Staff Response:** The F150 has the same higher gas mileage because the units that are being replaced are different makes and models that get different miles per gallon.

**Alderman:** Bernie Anderson

**Item 6J:** Consent Agenda –“Petition submitted Eastlake, LLC, an Illinois Limited Liability Company, requesting Annexation and Rezoning of a 12.141 acre trace in the Grove on Kickapoo Creek Subdivision”

**Question/Comment:** “What is the financial impact to the COB? Why are we annexing more outline areas when there is still so much under developed land already annexed? The Grove has not even come close to the projected 1,000 houses.

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Adding additional land may create additional cost to the city related to water, sewer, refuse, and snow plowing? What is the projected cost to the citizens of Bloomington by adding these parcels? Unless the above are answered in detail, I plan to pull and hold over. We need to complete our new annexation policy!"

**Staff Response:** The subject property is the Kickapoo Creek Restoration Area. It does not include any residential sites. The City's financial impact is essentially long term maintenance, primarily by Parks and Recreation Staff. This maintenance includes mowing, prairie grass establishment and maintenance and sediment removal and erosion repair. Since the City accepted grants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for the creek restoration work, the above maintenance is the City's responsibility even if the area is not annexed or dedicated to the City. Annexing the property and having it dedicated to the City is required in order to perform this maintenance. The area is still owned and controlled by the Developer. The Developer granted easements to the City for the construction work, but long term maintenance was not included in the easement. Until the area is dedicated to the City, any work by City Staff on the site could be considered trespassing. Furthermore, dedication of the subject area is considered the Developers matching contribution for the creek restoration grants. If the City fails to perform the described maintenance, the IEPA may require reimbursement of the grant funds, which were approximately \$2,000,000.

**Alderman:** Bernie Anderson

**Item 6L:** Consent Agenda –“Petition from First State Bank of Bloomington Trustee MCLT #LDB-52 (Larry D. Bielfeldt) requesting approval of a Final Plat for the Eighth Addition to Hawthorne Commercial Subdivision located west of Towanda Barnes Road and south of G.E. Road”

**Question/Comment:** “What are the restrictions that will be imposed on the type of advertising? This was discussed prior, but I don't remember the outcome”

**Staff Response:** Staff presumes the sign being referred to is the one just south of Pamela Drive, 1130 N. Towanda Barnes. There was a great deal of discussion as to the type of sign that should be allowed at this location. The two proposed locations will meet the City's sign code for the placement of the signs. However, no sign plans have been submitted at this time. Staff will review to ensure compliance with City Code as well as having the airport review for location, height and type of sign being placed.

**Alderman:** Robert Fazzini

**Item 7A:** Regular Agenda –“Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Service Agreement Between City and Downtown Bloomington Association (DBA)”

## Questions/Comments:

1. “Was the reason that the Farmer's Market grant application was not submitted with the deadline period the responsibility of the DBA? If so, should our \$90,000 be decreased by \$26,000? Are there other grant opportunities that not being pursued?”
  - a. **Staff Response:** The Illinois Department of Agriculture Advertising Grant guidelines criteria changed. The grant required a more “regional” approach that would cover a much wider demographic area in Central Illinois and having to share the funding with several markets. The DBA was not able to establish the regional network in time to meet the application guidelines therefore they did not submit an application for this year. As shown in the DBA's 2012 budget, they receive \$1,000 in Grants for their fiscal year. The DBA will continue to explore opportunities to apply for Farmer Market Grants.
2. “Do we have quantified results regarding “immediate accomplishments” based on information in the monthly reports to the Deputy City Manager and/or minutes from monthly meetings between the Executive Director of the DBA and the Deputy City Manager?”

# CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS/STAFF RESPONSES REPORT

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- a. **Staff Response:** Immediate accomplishments will be viewed through DBA's Performance Measurements; DBA monthly reports/accomplishments; and discussed as "immediate" or not during the monthly meeting with the DBA Executive Director and the Deputy City Manager and reflected in the City Managers Monthly Report.
3. "Would the cost of the Façade Grant Program need to be added to the proposed \$90,000 to arrive at what the cost to the city would be to support the downtown?"
  - a. **Staff Response:** The Façade Grant Program could be added to a list of downtown activities that would also include (hanging flowers baskets, 50/50 sidewalk replacement, Staff time working with the DBA, decorative lighting, benches, bike racks, PD Hire back, Ordinance Enforcement, Vehicles for Hire, etc.) could all be included, but not administered by the DBA, these activities are administered by Staff.
4. "Should part of the compensation package for the Retail Development Coordinator be added to the proposed \$90,000 to arrive at what the cost to the city would be to support the downtown?"
  - a. **Staff Response:** Staff is not prepared to calculate the cost to the City of Bloomington to support the downtown.
5. "Should part of the donation to the EDC of \$100,000 be added to the proposed \$90,000 to arrive at what the cost to the city would be to support the downtown?"
  - a. **Staff Response:** Staff is not prepared to calculate the cost to the City of Bloomington to support the downtown.
6. "Do we need a timetable for when the DBA will become self-supporting with specifics on how that will be accomplished? This might be similar to the tact we are pursuing with the BCPA by considering how much the city should underwrite temporarily until the entity can become self-supporting?"
  - a. **Staff Response:** Staff's direction as outlined in the 2012 Action Plan was to provide policy direction for future funding for the DBA services to Council. If the Council would like Staff to work with the DBA on a timetable of when they will become self-supporting, Council needs to direct the City Manager to do so.

Note: "My questions all relate to what the total cost of maintaining/improving our downtown is for the city. I think that we need to take a global approach to what we provide for the downtown rather than simply look at a \$90,000 DBA contribution."

**Alderman:** Jim Fruin

**Item 7A:** Regular Agenda –"Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Service Agreement Between City and Downtown Bloomington Association (DBA)"

**Question/Comment:** "This staff report illustrates my ongoing belief that office/overhead expenses could be reduced if similar marketing/promotional entities would share common space and resources. Examples could be DBA, CVB, EDC, BCPA, Coliseum, Chamber, etc. In my opinion there is a real potential to share similar resources and thus reduce government expense. In the absence of a change driven by Elected Officials, each entity operates under their own silo and attempts to justify that their work is unique and they need their own office space, resources, etc. Seems like duplication and overlap of services to me and in the absence of interest from others, it becomes a lost opportunity to reduce government expense."

**Staff Response:** The DBA is located in the downtown in order to be visible and keep their eye on the "pulse" of what is going on. Currently there is no room in the EDC, Chamber, Coliseum or the BCPA to house the DBA. The DBA does not have a designated office assistant/secretary and the other above listed entity's do. Staff would be open to Council direction. Your "belief" cannot be validated without extra research and efforts.

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**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 7C:** Regular Agenda –“Presentation of Pavement Material Alternatives (Asphalt, Concrete and/or Overlay of the Two)”

**Question/Comment:** “Not included in packet”

**Staff Response:** There was not any advanced written material for this presentation.

**Alderman:** Jim Fruin

**Item 7C:** Regular Agenda –“

**Question/Comment:** “There was not any advanced written material for this presentation.

**Staff Response:** There are no written materials for this presentation.

**Alderman:** Mboka Mwilambwe

**Item 7E:** Regular Agenda –“Analysis of Bids and Approval of Contract for Regency Pump Station Rehabilitation (Ward 8)

**Question/Comment:** “Do you expect any adverse impact by reaching into the reserve, i.e. bond rating? Do we plan on returning that money to the reserve fund? If so, what’s the plan?”

**Staff Response:** The Regency Pump Station is a critical sewer project. Staff is recommending the use of General Fund reserves since the Sewer Fund is still has a large deficit balance. Staff does not anticipate any adverse impact from transferring funds from General Fund reserves. Staff anticipates ending FY2012 with a surplus, this combined with already existing reserve balances leave the city within our Fund Balance Policy. It is likely that additional General Fund transfers will be requested this year. Staff does not anticipate replenishing this transfer in the short term. The Sewer Master plan and a Sewer fee analysis are both scheduled to be completed in calendar year 2013. These studies will help to determine the long-term health of the Sewer Fund and provide a road map for the fund going forward. It is critical for the city to fully understand its capital needs and to make sure this fund or others have no further “unplanned” or “unfunded” expenditures.

Prepared by: Barbara J. Adkins, Deputy City Manager



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March 20, 2012

### SOLE SOURCE LETTER FOR TASER INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS

This letter is to confirm TASER International is the sole source manufacturer of the following TASER brand products:

- Electronic control devices (ECDs):
  1. TASER X2™ Models: 22002, and 22003.
  2. TASER X3® Models: 33209, and 33210.
  3. TASER X26™ Models: 26511, 26523, 26550, 26512, 26524, 26549.
  4. TASER X3W™ Models: 33228, and 33229.
  
- Optional Extended Warranties for ECDs:
  1. X2 ECD - 4-year extended warranty, item number 22014.
  2. X26 ECD - 1-year extended warranty, item number 26730.
  3. X26 ECD - 4-year extended warranty, item number 26744.
  4. X3 ECD - 1-year extended warranty, item number 33500.
  5. X3 ECD - 3-year extended warranty, item number 33501.
  6. X3W ECD - 1-year extended warranty, item number 33503
  7. X3W ECD - 2-year extended warranty, item number 33502
  
- TASER ECD cartridges compatible with the X26, M26™ and Shockwave™ ECDs (required for these ECDs to function in the probe deployment mode):
  1. 15-foot Model 34200.
  2. 21-foot Model 44200.
  3. 21-foot non-conductive Model 44205.
  4. 25-foot Model 44203.
  5. 35-foot Model 44206.
  
- TASER Smart cartridges compatible with the X2, X3, and X3W ECDs (required for these ECDs to function in the probe deployment mode):
  1. 15-foot Model 22150.
  2. 25-foot Model 22151.
  3. 35-foot Model 22152.
  4. Inert Simulator 25-foot Model 22155.
  5. 25-foot non-conductive Model 22157.
  
- TASER CAM™ recorder, Model 26830 (full video and audio with ability to disable audio).
  1. The TASER CAM can be downloaded by USB with the TASER CAM Download Kit, Model 26737.
  
- TASER CAM™ HD recorder, Model 26810 (full HD video and audio) and TASER CAM HD with AS (automatic shut-down feature), Model 26820.
  1. TASER CAM HD replacement battery, Model 26764.
  2. The TASER CAM HD can be downloaded by USB with the TASER CAM HD Download Kit, Model 26762.
  3. TASER CAM HD optional 4-year extended warranty, Item Number 26763.
  
- Power Modules for X26 ECD: Digital Power Magazine (DPM) Model 26700; eXtended Digital Power Magazine (XDPM) model 26701; and Controlled Digital Power Magazine (CDPM), Models 26702 and 26703.
  
- Power Modules for X2 ECD: Performance Power Magazine (PPM) Model 22010; Tactical Performance Power Magazine (TPPM) Model 22012; and Automatic Shut-Down Power Magazine (APPM) Model 22011.

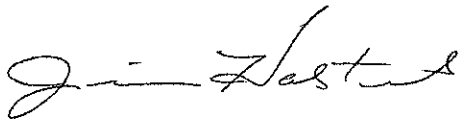
- Power Module for X3 and X3W ECDs: Enhanced Digital Power Magazine (EPM) Model 33203
- TASER Shockwave ECD, Models 90012, 90011, 90013, and 90010. The TASER Shockwave ECD runs off of a Shockwave Power Magazine (SPM), Model 90007.
- TASER Blast Door Repair Kit Model 44019 and TASER Blast Door Replenishment Kit Model 44023

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<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Ray O'Herron Company, Inc.</b>  <b>3549 N. Vermilion Street, PO Box 1070</b>  <b>Danville, IL. 61834-1070</b>  <b>1-800-223-2097 Phone</b>  <b>1-888-223-3235 Fax</b> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>TASER International, Inc.</b>  <b>17800 N. 85<sup>th</sup> Street</b>  <b>Scottsdale, AZ 85255</b>  <b>Phone: 480-905-2000 or 800-978-2737</b>  <b>Fax: 480-991-0791</b> </p>

Please contact us at 1-800-978-2737 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jim Halsted  
 Vice President, LE Sales  
 TASER International, Inc.