

City Council Meeting – June 27, 2011

Council Questions/Staff Answers

(Completed at 3:45pm 6/27/2011 KB)

Councilman Anderson

Item 6C

Question/Comment: Not questioning the need for the repair, but when referring to the financial, it should be stated the amount of negative account balance for the sewer fund.

Staff Response: The audited fund balance of the sewer fund as of April 30, 2010 was (4,318,270.77).

Councilman Mwilambwe

Item 6D

Question/Comment: What do we do with all the equipment that is replaced? Do we recycle any of it, whether for parts or communities that may need them (locally or abroad)? Do the companies we purchased them from take them back?

Staff Response: We are trying to coordinate with a charitable organization to have the old playground equipment sent abroad to a third world country. If this is not possible for this instance staff will work on having the equipment recycled.

Councilman Fruin

Item 6D

Question/Comment: Brings to light the need to get copies of our Parks Master Plan (which outlines recommended priorities), to new Council members who might not have such.

Funds are dedicated in the current budget year.

Staff Response: The new Aldermen have been supplied with copies of the adopted Parks Master Plan.

Councilman Fazzini

Item 6D

Question/Comment: Is the \$54,483 in the 2011 budget? What is the status of playground equipment for other parks, and how much in expense might we be seeing in the rest of 2011 and in 2012 for playground equipment at all the other parks?

Staff Response: Yes, this expense is included in the current fiscal year budget. This is the only playground equipment budgeted for the current fiscal year. There is \$69,000 budgeted for various repairs to the spray park apparatus and tiling surface at McGraw Park.

Councilwoman Schmidt

Item 6D

Question/Comment: This makes me ask what Judy will probably ask as well: we are replacing playground equipment from the 1990s and I am okay with that. When are we going to address the equipment at Franklin Park? I remember the discussions about this when I joined the Council some 12 years ago, and now I regularly bike & walk past it on my way to work. Franklin Park is a popular local park; can we work on it too?

Staff Response: Franklin Park is in need of other renovations in addition to possible playground equipment. Staff is working on these renovations in phases with funds budgeted this year to address sidewalk replacement. Future renovations will be planned to address other concerns in the park (including playgrounds, arboretum signage, etc.). Franklin Park is referenced in the Parks Master Plan on pages 31 and 81-82.

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Councilman Anderson

Item 6D

Question/Comment: I agree with the rest of council's questioning why Franklin Park would not be ahead of this new equipment. Again, I do not think anyone is questioning this equipment needs updating.

Staff Response: Franklin Park is in need of other renovations in addition to possible playground equipment. Staff is working on these renovations in phases with funds budgeted this year to address sidewalk replacement. Future renovations will be planned to address other concerns in the park (including playgrounds, arboretum signage, etc.). Franklin Park is referenced in the Parks Master Plan on pages 31 and 81-82.

Councilman Fazzini

Item 6E

Question/Comment: Even though there is enough money in the Park Dedication account, was this an expense in the 2011 budget?

Staff Response: Historically a separate Park Dedication budget has not been created. Any projects that arise during a year would be handled as a budget amendment. Moving forward, this can be addressed during the budgeting process.

Councilman Anderson

Item 6E

Question/Comment: I will support this PO only to bring this project to a close. With this said, are there any other parts of this park that are not completed?

Staff Response: No, this completes the final phase of the park. However there are repairs to the spray park apparatus and tiling surface budgeted for this fiscal year.

Councilman Fruin

Item 6F

Question/Comment: Concur with Karen for a short answer on why Sherwin Williams did not meet specifications.

Staff Response: The Sherman Williams bid did not meet the viscosity and solids/unit requirements in the proposal. These requirements are there to provide the highest quantity of solids in an area once the base fluid drains off. High quality of solids allows for a more durable paint and an extended life.

Councilwoman Schmidt

Item 6F

Question/Comment: Can we get an explanation of what was missing from the Sherwin-Williams bid?

Staff Response: The Sherman Williams bid did not meet the viscosity and solids/unit requirements in the proposal. These requirements are there to provide the highest quantity of solids in an area once the base fluid drains off. High quality of solids allows for a more durable paint and an extended life.

Councilman Fruin

Item 6G

Question/Comment: Quite a range in bid pricing!

Staff Response: Staff was somewhat surprised by the spread in the bid prices. However, we have seen in cases like this in the past that bidders are either new to the process and/or don't completely understand it.

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Councilman Fazzini

Item 6G

Question/Comment: What were the past experiences and current issues with Perfect Cleaning Co. that lead to a recommendation not to accept its lowest bid? Were these issues discussed with the company prior to this bid with no success in having them solved?

Staff Response: There was discussion with Perfect Cleaning during this process and in the past. Additionally, as stated in the Council memo, they have not provided the necessary documents required to satisfy the bid specifications.

Councilwoman Schmidt

Item 6G

Question/Comment: Can we get our Council desk areas wiped down occasionally?

Staff Response: The contract cleaning crew will clean this area once a week.

Councilman Fazzini

Item 6L

Question/Comment: It seems to me that 24 pages of justification for a \$15,000 expense is overkill.

Staff Response: The only item included in the contract agreement is from the performing artist. Staff is working on an ordinance to delegate this authority to the City Manager for approval of these performance contracts.

Councilman Fruin

Item 6M

Question/Comment: While generally supportive, I would like to pull for discussion.

Staff Response: N/A

Councilwoman Schmidt

Item 6M

Question/Comment: We received an e-mail concerning the noise and the neighborhood with the change in venue of the Blues Festival. I know Mboka has been following this closely - everything okay with this festival and the neighbors?

Staff Response: N/A

Councilman Fruin

Item 6O

Question/Comment: Agree with Karen and Rob with respect to the multiple conditions, although several are “one and done” issues that do not continue. With this said, managing, monitoring and compliance of conditions is not only an issue at this location, but other locations as well that have multiple conditions. Obviously, the Liquor Commission and neighbors have spent considerable time working on compromise and solutions, which would help to reestablish a vacant building, rather than allowing it to be a eyesore and a blighted building on a very busy street.

Staff Response: N/A

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Councilman Fazzini

Item 6O

Question/Comment: A liquor license with 11 contingencies conditions and the right to add more makes this an unworkable situation for those who need to enforce the conditions. We should not place our police in the position of having so many different conditions to enforce. It is just not reasonable to expect compliance control. If a liquor license needs this many conditions, then it should probably be declined. I will want this items pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Staff Response: N/A

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Councilwoman Schmidt

Item 6O

Question/Comment: Following my involvement in the downtown task force and the concern expressed over following up on conditions placed on licenses, I am not going to vote for a license with 11 conditions placed on it. I do understand that the Liquor Commission went out of its way to hold an extra meeting about this and received neighborhood feedback in crafting this license. I think we need to address the bigger issue of how we manage and monitor our licenses before we grant more with this many conditions.

Staff Response: N/A

Councilman Anderson

Item 6O

Question/Comment: Though the question of how these 12 conditions are to be policed/enforced and with the recent task force I still support this request. I attended the liquor commission hearing for this establishment. Prior to the meeting and e-mail received from concerned residents with their concerns. The neighbors and the owner came to these understandings and felt they would be able to work together for the good of both sides. Again, the residents seemed willing to work with the owner. Some of the residents are actually going to be working for this establishment.

Staff Response: N/A