

Council Questions/Comments and Staff Responses Report for October 8, 2012

as of October 8, 2012 at 9:25am

Consent Agenda:

Alderman: Bernie Anderson

Comment: I have no questions at this time.

Alderwoman: Jennifer McDade

Comment: No questions, one comment on 8A

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 7F: Client Agreement between the City of Bloomington and Catamaran for Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) Services for the City's Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Employee/Retiree Health Insurance Plan

Question/Comment: Should the motion include waiving the technicality regarding the Addendum?

Staff Response: Attached please find a Resolution that will accompany Item 7F.

Alderwoman: Judy Stearns

Item 7H: Approval of Contract Amendment in the amount of \$137,802 for Morris Avenue Reconstruction: Six Points Road to Fox Hill Apartments.

Questions/Comment:

1. Who was responsible for calling in TSC and what was the cost of the consultation?
 - **Staff Response:** City staff consults for third party assistance in areas where we don't have any expertise such as structural issues and geotechnical support. Testing Service Corp (TSC) is a local geotechnical services firm that has the current City contract in this area. City staff contacted them when the subsurface issues came to light. The city has not yet received a bill under the Professional Testing Services Contract. The hourly rates were competitively bid for this work.
2. I understand the difficulty of having a delay, however, is it possible to bid the remediation?
 - **Staff Response:** Stark Excavating has the contract for this section of Morris Avenue. As such, the City must work under the contract provisions for additional work. Any delays in approval of this additional work will likely lead to not having the road open over the winter to traffic.
3. How frequently, in general, do we find this soil problem (high moisture) when constructing roads and what have we done to remediate before?
 - **Staff Response:** High moisture of this nature is rarely encountered on City projects. More often minor moisture or poor soil is experienced which leads to minor undercutting remediation. Subgrade remediation depends upon many factors including the soil type and extent of the reconstruction. This is one of the reasons a geotechnical company was consulted.
4. Who conducted the initial soil testing? Is there accountability for correct results?
 - **Staff Response:** TSC did the initial soil testing at the north end of the project as referenced in the report. The results that were provided by this testing reflected the soil information that they found at these locations. The testing site was at the bottom of the hill and had the best likelihood to show any extensive ground water issues if they were present. The testing sites did not show any major concerns for ground water issues. As staff has stated before with geotechnical soil testing, it is potentially very costly to do enough soil testing to eliminate all of the underground variables on a construction project. Test bores on soil can be very costly and do not guarantee that there won't be poor soil or other issues between the boring locations. Based upon the poor soils in this area, staff did include undercutting the entire project 12 inches. Under most conditions, this would

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have been sufficient to address soil issues. The conditions found in the field lead TSC to recommend more extensive undercutting. If the work is not done correctly now, the pavement life will be diminished in the future. Staff is recommending to properly repair the subgrade prior to finishing the road.

Regular Agenda:

Alderman: Bernie Anderson

Comment: I have no questions at this time.

Alderwoman: Jennifer McDade

Item 8A: Request Approval of Miller Park Zoo Master Plan

Question/Comment: No questions, one comment on 8A. I feel that City Manager/Staff comments should emphasize the need for this plan for accreditation of our current zoo (as is today, no change) and the fact that this is not financially binding as stated in the recommendation.

Staff Response: Having a Master Plan that has been adopted by the governing body of the Zoo is an important aspect of accreditation within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The action being requested of the City Council is to adopt only the Master Plan without committing any funding for future implementation. The Master Plan recommends improving what the Zoo currently has in its existing footprint, before considering any expansion and enlarging of the Zoo. In each aspect, the City Council will have further authority to approve any such investments through the annual budgeting process and through an eventual adoption of a long-range, citywide capital improvement plan. The action requested at this point does not commit the city to making any of the investments recommended in the Master Plan.

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8A: Request Approval of Miller Park Zoo Master Plan

Question/Comment: Should we be voting on the adoption of a Zoo Master Plan prior to determining if small community zoos will exist in the future now that we have the television and the internet to observe large animals in their natural habitat rather than in small cages? I believe we skipped the step of determining whether or not the Bloomington Zoo should continue to exist in the future. Captured animals develop neurosis or insanity brought on by boredom, deprivation, frustration and stress. The large cats pacing endlessly in the worn path against the outside bars is due to neurosis. The animals are telling us they are suffering even though they may look physically healthy, well fed, cleaned and cared for. Humans in mental health homes exhibit the same kind of behavior, but mental health problems in zoo animals are largely ignored. Television and the internet carry a wealth of information and material about wild animals not available when Bloomington first opened its zoo many years ago. We need not imprison these animals to teach our children about them any longer. As past board members of the McLean County Humane Society, my wife and I have and will continue to be advocates for the humane treatment of animals.

Staff Response: Throughout the master planning process, we consistently heard that the Zoo was an important asset to the region and that residents were proud to have a zoo of this quality right in their backyard. The process provided multiple opportunities for input and for people to voice their comments and concerns about the Zoo. The planning team talked one-on-one with half a dozen community stakeholders, City staff and leadership, including the Mayor, City Manager and Deputy City Manager, hosted two community wide town hall sessions, and sent surveys to all Council Members. The overwhelming response from all of these discussions showed that the Zoo is valued, contributes to strong quality-of-life, and should be improved. The Miller Park Zoo is an accredited member in good standing of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA-accredited zoos meet the highest standards for animal care and welfare. In addition to the requirements for high-quality habitats, nutrition, and veterinary care, AZA-accreditation standards also require a program of behavioral enrichment so that both

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the physical and psychological needs of the animals are met. In a 2007 AZA survey, 81% of Americans felt that zoos and aquariums offered a better way for kids to learn about wildlife than the internet and TV shows. A more recent 2011 AZA survey found that 96% of people agreed that zoos and aquariums play an important role in introducing young people to wildlife and conservation issues. The same study found that 78% of Americans believed that zoos and aquariums are important enough to local communities to be partially supported by government funding. For additional information/resources that were developed by the AZA as to “Why Zoos Matter” can be found at www.zooadvisors.com/resources/news-you-can-use.

Alderwoman: Judy Stearns

Item 8A: Request Approval of Miller Park Zoo Master Plan

Question/Comment: I am concerned about the tremendous investment in the zoo that is proposed, as I said in the initial meeting, and I feel there are larger questions to be asked about whether we should expand the zoo, enlarge the zoo, or step back and consider improving what we already have without expanding. I appreciate the zoo board work and investment, however, a very major investment must be considered in the context of other priorities we face. I agree that an assessment of what is the most humane and environmentally responsible approach to zoos today is in order. I am not ready to approve the zoo plan.

Staff Response: Having a Master Plan that has been adopted by the governing body of the Zoo is an important aspect of accreditation within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The action being requested of the City Council is to adopt only the Master Plan without committing any funding for future implementation. The Master Plan recommends improving what the Zoo currently has in its existing footprint, before considering any expansion and enlarging of the zoo. In each aspect, the City Council will have further authority to approve any such investments through the annual budgeting process and through an eventual adoption of a long-range, citywide capital improvement plan. The action requested at this point does not commit the city to making any of the investments recommended in the Master Plan.

General Comments:

Alderwoman: Jennifer McDade

Comments: Another possible area to address in Monday’s Meeting (perhaps in Mayor/Alderman comments) is an update on downtown. I know there have been many meetings (including a DETF meeting tomorrow, I think).

Staff Response: Defer to Mayor Stockton

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Comments: Prior to further discussion on our downtown and the bar situation, I would like to know what dollar amount is the sales tax revenue from the bars. The significance or lack of significance compared to our budget would make a difference in how I view the situation.

Staff Response: Staff will prepare this information, but is not sure if it will be available for tonight’s meeting.

Prepared by: Barbara J. Adkins, Deputy City Manager

RESOLUTION 2012-____

A RESOLUTION WAIVING THE BIDDING PROCESS
AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR
PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

That the sealed bidding process be waived and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the City for Pharmacy Benefit Management Services for the City's Preferred Provider Organization for Employee/Retiree Health Insurance Plan with Catamaren PBM of Illinois, Inc., for the reasons that the City staff solicited requests for proposals from numerous firms and for the other reasons set forth in the memo from the City staff to the City Council included in the packet for the regularly scheduled City Council meeting for October 8, 2012.

PASSED this ____ day of October, 2012

APPROVED this ___ day of October, 2012.

APPROVED:

Steven F. Stockton, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracey Covert, City Clerk