

Council Questions/Comments and Staff Responses Report for January 14, 2013

as of January 13, 2013 at 2:01pm

WORK SESSION

Alderman: Jennifer McDade

Item: Solid Waste Interim Report

Questions/Comments:

1. Will there be facilitated meetings with apartments/condos/landlords to get their feedback on options?
 - a. **Staff Response:** Staff can conduct those meetings if directed by the Council.
2. I'm not sure residents are aware that they can receive special assistance with the carts as mentioned here. I continue to get intermittent calls and face to face feedback that 65 & 95 gallon options are too big for some.
 - a. **Staff Response:** Staff will work to include this information on the City's website.
3. Is there a choice between 1 (1 load) and 4 (zero loads)?
 - a. **Staff Response:** The City currently charges citizens for any bulk loads over two (2) scoops from a frontend loader. The decision to alter this fee will be for Council discussion. Staff is currently recommending reducing the number of free bucket loads to one or zero.
4. Can the survey also be online?
 - a. **Staff Response:** Tonight the Council will be asked what type of medium(s) they would like to see staff utilize to garner public input. The City's website is another tool for Council to consider.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Alderman: Bernie Anderson

Item 7F: Petition submitted by Milestones Early Learning Center & Preschool, requesting approval of a Special Use for a day care center for property located at 1207 Six Points Road

Question/Comment: I have received inquiries on the proposed Milestone Early Learning Center. Two concerns keep coming up are:

1. Drainage concerns from proposed run off. It concerns me that we do not have a complete storm water drainage plan. This is a concern of area homeowners.
 - a. **Staff Response:** The development will have to provide City Code compliant detention before the construction plans would be approved. At this stage of the development, it is not required to do the detention basin engineering design. The special use request does not waive the need for the required detention.
2. There is also a concern that the added traffic onto Six Points is not being considered.
 - a. **Staff Response:** The issue of additional traffic has been considered by staff at this location. The traffic at this location is not expected to exceed the capacity of adjacent Six Points Road. The Illinois Department of Transportation general rule of thumb is 6,000 vehicles per lane per day. With Six Points being a newly improved four (4) lane road, it would theoretically have a 24,000 vehicle per day capacity. As the street volume got closer to the theoretical estimate, additional lanes would have to be considered. The latest 2009 traffic count on Six Points Road showed an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count of 7,300. This is well under the new capacity of the street. In addition, the access for this site is shown as being directly across from Springfield Road access onto Six Points Road. This is the best location for access.

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Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 7G: Adoption of latest edition of the Illinois State Plumbing Code; updates to the Bloomington Municipal Code, Chapter 34, Plumbing Code; and adjusted fees and fee schedules

Question/Comment: I would like to propose that the fees be reviewed annually henceforth using the CPI as a benchmark for consideration of any fee increases. This is not a proposal to increase any or all fees annually, but rather to force a review annually to avoid fee increases covering multi year periods.

Staff Response: Staff will be recommending to the Council to establish a formal internal policy to address the City's fee based structure. Within this policy, the City will establish parameters that will address whether fees should be cost reimbursements, fees exclusive to raise revenue, or punitive fees or unwanted activities. As part of this policy, the City will examine direct and indirect cost calculations and how these calculations should be incorporated into the overall City cost structure. Furthermore, the City will examine the incorporation of price indices such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Producers Price Index (PPI), and/or the Gross Domestic Product Deflator (GDP).

REGULAR AGENDA

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8A: 2012-2013 Police Strategic Plan Presentation

Question/Comment: Impressive Strategic Plan with equally impressive results. I would suggest two points to emphasize to significantly improve the law enforcement in Bloomington. First, determine the increased needs to fully enforce all of the ordinances/rules for the downtown bar scene; then meet with the establishments serving liquor to review the new enforcement effort; then begin aggressively enforcing all of the ordinances/rules consistently. Second, continue to the increased issuance of traffic citations until the public understands that driving under the influence or simply exceeding the speed limits in Bloomington will have consequences.

Staff Response: Currently Assistants Bob Wall and Clay Wheeler and other staff are working with the City Manager and Deputy City Manager as part of the Council directive regarding "Nightlife in the downtown" to help address some of the concerns with the downtown bar district problems. On top of the meetings that staff attends monthly with the Downtown Bar Owners Association, staff is meeting and preparing reports. With the holidays and most of the college students being gone from our area, it has slowed down considerably for our Downtown Hireback Officers. However, with the return of the students the Assist Chief's will be selecting a Thursday, Friday and Saturday to be present downtown to get a firsthand look at what additional resources are needed. Recommendations will be made to the City Manager. As far as speed enforcement and DUI enforcement, these are both critical highlighted efforts for the new Strategic Plan. In fact, police staff has stepped up enforcement considerably over the past several months. Staff will share some of those numbers with the Council this evening.

Alderwoman: Jennifer McDade

Item 8B: Adoption of Managed Competition Policy

Question/Comment: Will you be providing an overview of the outcome of the Informational Meeting held with employees and others?

Staff Response: The City Manager (along with the Deputy City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, and Human Resource Director) held a meeting with interested Union Representatives on August 20, 2012. In attendance were representatives from 362 Support Staff, 362 Inspectors, 362 Parking Attendants, Local 699 Public Works and Parks, Lodge 1000, Local 49, Unit 21, Sgts & Lts and Telecommunicators. The City Manager began the discussion with a brief background and history of managed competition and some success stories. The Assistant to the City Manager shared a copy of the draft policy and process flow chart and provided an overview of what staff planned to present to Council in the future. The City Manager then opened up the meeting for any questions from the Unions Representatives. Some of the comments from the unions included: acknowledgement of the difficulty of establishing apples to apples comparisons, desire to make staff more aware of the budget and to attempt to incorporate more training

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resources, some fears that due to the private sector not having pension costs it will put city staff at a disadvantage, and a statement that city staff's salaries may be higher in some instances than a private industry due to the longevity of staff.

Alderwoman: Karen Schmidt

Item 8B: Adoption of Managed Competition Policy

Question/Comment: While I fully appreciate the impetus for Managed Competition, I continue to be concerned that our city employees have the opportunity to be fully engaged in offering cost-saving measures. The policy sates our commitment to staff involvement in making our in-house services competitive. Nevertheless, this is a culture shift that I don't think will happen automatically. Is there anything we can and should be doing to assure that the process for employee engagement in cost-cutting reap the kind of creative thinking we are hoping for? Is this something Lynn Monte (or similar) could assist with?

Staff Response: A Managed Competition Program is a significant cultural shift and will continue to be a learning opportunity for staff and the Council. Bringing in and providing resources to better educate staff and foster creative thinking is something that should certainly be considered. Staff has already contacted Carrollton, TX City Manager Leonard Martin who has agreed to come in and speak with Council, staff, unions and interested business leaders about the successes they have had in their 10+ years of a managed competition program. City Manager Martin also has a full time Performance Auditor who may join him in the presentation.

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8B: Adoption of Managed Competition Policy

Question/Comment: Under the section entitled PRINCIPLES, consider adding a statement as the second point which emphasizes that the QUALITY of the work will be a significant consideration along with the COST of providing the service. This should address both the short term aspects of cost savings as well as the cost to city employees providing the service if quality standards are not met. For example, if we sell equipment to use an outside service, what would be the cost of acquiring new equipment and training people if the service were to revert to city employees?

Staff Response: This may be something Council would like to discuss and add amended language before adopting.

Alderman: Bernie Anderson

Item 8B: Adoption of Managed Competition Policy

Question/Comment: I am concerned nowhere in the policy is there direction that if or when the city moves towards Managed Competition we will be working with labor to minimize layoffs. Because of the conversion process, it will take a period of time to implement; can we reduce the exposure to lay-offs? I recommend the policy to state the city will reduce lay-offs through attrition when possible. If we move to Managed Competition in any area, it is my hope we can reallocate resources throughout the staffing structure to keep valued employees.

Staff Response: The policy does include the principle to "make every reasonable effort to enhance the ability of employees to compete successfully", along with a statement that "efforts will be made to minimize the impact on current city employees affected by competition. Each competition recommendation will include an assessment of the effect on employees and recommendations to manage any negative impact upon the workforce." Additional language such as a statement to reduce lay-offs when possible is certainly an option for Council to discuss and include if they deem appropriate. Retaining valued employees is vital to the City's long-term success.

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Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8C: Munis Update Presentation

Question/Comment: No information provided in my package

Staff Response: A hardcopy of staff's PowerPoint presentation will be provided to Council and the public prior to the start of Council Meeting this evening.

Alderman: Rob Fazzini

Item 8D: Payment for Software Maintenance to Tyler Technologies for various Munis Modules

Question/Comment: Why is the ATTENDANCE RECORDING not included in the maintenance agreement section?

Staff Response: The software maintenance payment request before Council is only for a segment of the Munis software. Not all modules included as maintenance payments are tied to the implementation timeline. Future maintenance invoices will include the entire Munis enterprise software suite. The time keeping software is a third part to Munis and will require its own maintenance payments.

Prepared by: Barbara J. Adkins, Deputy City Manager