

**City Council Questions and Answers for
Thursday, January 31, 2013**

These questions and answers are related to the
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on
Thursday, January 31, 2013 at Austin City Hall
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX



**Mayor Lee Leffingwell
Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole
Council Member Chris Riley, Place 1
Council Member Mike Martinez, Place 2
Council Member Kathie Tovo, Place 3
Council Member Laura Morrison, Place 4
Council Member William Spelman, Place 5**

The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until the final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

1. Agenda Item # 3

- a. QUESTION: Is this line oversized? Under what circumstances could a Service Extension Request be denied? Do factors other than available capacity go into the decision? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
- b. ANSWER: The 8-inch water line proposed under Water Service Extension Request (SER) number 3158, for the warehouse located at 8647 West Highway 290, is sized to provide domestic water service and fire protection and is not considered oversized. The Utility conducts a technical review of each SER submitted to determine its service requirements, the City's system capacity, the appropriate infrastructure necessary to provide service by the City, and whether it is within our impact fee boundary (our service area) or our Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN). In this case, the SER is located within our CCN for water service. CCNs require that the CCN holder provide service to every customer within the CCN boundaries and that the CCN holder must provide continuous and adequate service to such customers. Under the City Code, for SERs within the Drinking Water Protection Zone outside the full purpose City limits, City Council approval is required for the City to provide service. This SER received a recommendation from the Environmental Board and the Water and Wastewater Commission. As stated above, staff conducts a technical review of an application for an SER to determine, among other things, the service requirements for the subject tract, the system capacity and type of improvements necessary to provide service to the site. Pursuant to the City Code, for Austin Water to reject an SER, the SER would not have met one or more of the items required under the technical review.

2. Agenda Item # 12

- a. QUESTION: Will all costs of this program be covered by the grant? Who are the target volunteers? Where will they be working? What financial or other commitments has the city made in receipt of this grant? COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: The costs of this educational program will be covered by the grant. However, not all aspects of implementing the City of Austin Invasive Species Management Plan are meant to be addressed by this grant. This grant covers the cost of developing training for City Staff and volunteers, all aspects of the 6 trainings (2 trainings for City staff, 4 for volunteers), and staff time to

analyze data submitted by the volunteers. The majority of citizen scientist volunteers will be students from local universities who have a focus on environmental studies, neighborhood associations, and Adopt-a-Park or Adopt-a-Creek groups who live near areas that appear to have high infestation of invasive plant species, and citizens who are a part of environmental organizations like the Capital Area Master Naturalists, National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards, Native Plant Society of Texas, Master Gardeners, and American Youthworks Environmental Corps. Volunteers ages will range from late teens to retired citizens. Volunteers will survey properties owned by the City of Austin. These properties span the city's entire geographic area and serve the entire population. Efforts will be made to involve citizens in the data gathering for their specific neighborhood so citizens learn more about data collection, GIS systems, and urban ecological management in their area. Some of the water quality protection lands may fall outside of typical city boundaries but the city is involved in their active management. Volunteers entering restricted water quality protection lands would be accompanied by wildlands staff. The city owns ~48,493 acres and is responsible for maintenance of 913 miles of drainage channels and creeks. Of that, 46,369 acres is green space and 833 miles of drainage channels are left un-mowed with vegetation management as needed for flood flow conveyance. These green areas may be appropriate for vegetation management and will be targeted to inventory nonnative invasive plants. A City GIS Analyst is working with the ISMP interdepartmental team to prioritize city owned properties for inventorying. The city was not required to make any financial commitments in exchange for receipt of this grant. ISMP interdepartmental team members have committed to supporting training/data collection program. This includes overseeing curriculum development, working with partners to recruit volunteers, prioritizing properties for volunteers to collect data on, and providing appropriate staff supervision for volunteer days.

3. Agenda Item # 15

- a. QUESTION: The ILA between AISD and the City supports a mentoring program at Metz, with achievement by the 158 students that were tutored during the 2010-2011 academic year demonstrated by "98% improving their reading skills from the prior year and 93% of the students promoted to the next grade level." (Per the backup.) Can you provide analogous figures for students at Metz that were not in the tutoring program? COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON
- b. ANSWER: See attachment for additional information.
- c. QUESTION: Why is funding for this program coming out of PARD's budget? Is money available through the Holly Good Neighbor youth program funding in HHS's budget? COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- d. ANSWER: The funding for the Metz Host program is a PARD expense because (according to PARD financial records) Austin Energy transferred

funding into the PARD Budget as part of the Holly Good Neighbor Funding Program for the purpose of supporting the Metz Host Program. During the budget process for fiscal year 2006-2007, PARD was designated by City Council to administer this funding for the Metz HOST program. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 was subsequently loaded into the PARD General Fund budget. PARD is not aware of Health and Human Services funding availability for this initiative, and did not pursue this option because the allocation for the Metz Host Program was specifically provided to PARD.

4. Agenda Item # 16

a. QUESTION: Fiscal note for item 16 states "Approve an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20120910-002) to reallocate and appropriate \$1,400,000 from facility renovations to trails;" Please identify how these funds would have been allocated for facility renovations without the ordinance amendment to reallocate to trails. COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO

b. ANSWER: The proposed transaction is intended to provide the necessary funding to award the construction contract for Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 1. Currently there is not sufficient funding for Trails under the 2006 Bond program. However, there is a balance of funds for Facility Renovations under the 2006 Bond program that is not currently tied to an active project. The \$1.4m reallocation from Facility Renovations to Trails is the means by which we can award this contract. The reallocation of this \$1.4m will be fully refunded as a portion of the \$2m of Trails funding under the 2012 Bond program, which has a net zero impact on funding for Facility Renovations. The remaining \$600k of Trails funding under the 2012 Bond program will be utilized as city-match for Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 2, which is currently under design. This plan is a full investment of Trails funding under the 2012 Bond program into the Walnut Creek Trail system which is a high priority for PARD.

c. QUESTION: How will the gap be closed for facilities renovations? Will any projects be delayed, and if so, which ones? COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO

d. ANSWER: The proposed transaction is intended to provide the necessary funding to award the construction contract for Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 1. Currently there is not sufficient funding for Trails under the 2006 Bond program. However, there is a balance of funds for Facility Renovations under the 2006 Bond program that is not currently tied to an active project. The \$1.4m reallocation from Facility Renovations to Trails is the means by which we can award this contract. The reallocation of this \$1.4m will be fully refunded as a portion of the \$2m of Trails funding under the 2012 Bond program, which has a net zero impact on funding for Facility Renovations. The remaining \$600k of Trails funding under the 2012 Bond program will be utilized as city-match for Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 2, which is currently under design. This plan is a full investment of Trails funding under

the 2012 Bond program into the Walnut Creek Trail system which is a high priority for PARD.

5. Agenda Item # 20

- a. QUESTION: This item concerns a contract for IT master planning services for the Aviation Department. A similar item was on our agenda on Sept. 27, 2012, but withdrawn. The RFP for this contract appears to be a formally designated "REBID" of the September RFP. Why was the effort rebid and how is it different now from what was recommended on the Sept. 27, 2012 agenda? Additionally, please provide answers to the questions that had been submitted for the Sept. 27, 2012 item (# 69): "There appears to be overlaps in areas of study between this proposed Aviation IT Master Planning effort and the IT Strategic Plan that was approved in the 2012-13 budget. How are these efforts related and/or being coordinated? If they are not, how are the overlap areas distinct and able to be consistent?" COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON
- b. ANSWER: Purchasing recommended a rebid to allow a broader participation of vendors. Additional subcontracting opportunities were identified for small minority vendor participation as a result of the rebid. The Aviation IT Master plan focuses on the airport infrastructure and the airport's line of business. The infrastructure and networks support the critical operations necessary for the airport and airlines to operate and maintain continuity of operations. This infrastructure also supports secure airport systems to ensure compliance with national security requirements. The IT master plan will provide the roadmap for future growth on the airport grounds. The IT Strategic plan that was approved in the 2012-13 budget focuses on the City wide effort to define the "best managed" leading performance benchmarks and practices in industry and government. Scope of work also includes conducting a gap analysis to assist in development of key performance indicators which will support and monitor the delivery and effectiveness of City services desired by the citizens of Austin. The Aviation department coordinated with Communications Technology Management department during the process of developing the Aviation IT Master Plan scope of work. Also a CTM representative served on the evaluation panel to ensure the consistency and overlap areas were being addressed.

6. Agenda Item # 24

- a. QUESTION: Does the city offer a paperless alternative, and if so, how much savings accrue from that option? If not, how much could be saved?
COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: See attachment for additional information


7. Agenda Item # 56-60


- a. QUESTION: Motion approved on 1/17/13 on these items was to postpone

to 1/31/13 at 6pm by applicant. Currently, the agenda shows these for consideration at 2pm. COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON

- b. ANSWER: Since there is no category designated for 6:00 p.m. Public Hearings, these items are being placed on changes and corrections and are listed as follows: Items # 56-60: At its time certain, a postponement of Items # 56-60 to 6:00 p.m. will be requested.

END OF REPORT - ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW

 *The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*

 *For assistance please call 974-2210 OR 974-2445 TDD.*



Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Item # 15	Meeting Date	January 31, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

HOSTS STAAR ANALYSIS DATA

2010-2011 TAKS Results				2011-2012 STAAR Results			
	Number of Students	Passed TAKS	Percentage Passed		Number of Students	Passed TAKS	Percentage Passed
HOSTS 3RD GRADE	18	17	94%	HOSTS 3RD GRADE	20	11	55%
CAMPUS	28	25	89%	CAMPUS	45	38	84%
HOSTS 4TH GRADE	18	12	67%	HOSTS 4TH GRADE	22	11	50%
CAMPUS	46	34	74%	CAMPUS	32	24	75%
HOSTS 5TH GRADE	11	7	64%	HOSTS 5TH GRADE	21	14	67%
CAMPUS	47	38	81%	CAMPUS	39	31	79%



Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Item # 24	Meeting Date	January 31, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

Yes, we offer an e-Bill program in which customers receive their monthly bill electronically. Currently we have approximately 41,000 e-Bill transactions which is roughly 8% of the total bills generated. Savings for bills generated electronically could be \$244,000 per month if all bills (520,000) were electronic. Please note that the savings amount includes postage; postage costs are not included in the RCA. Postage costs are roughly equivalent to the consumables cost.

Please see cost matrix below.

Cost of Producing Paper vs. Electronic Bills

Costs	Paper	Electronic (e-Bill)
Bill Generation	\$0.30	\$0.29
Postage	\$0.48	\$0
Total Cost per Bill	\$0.76	\$0.29

Savings of \$0.47 per bill

To clarify, the consumables cost reflected in the RCA includes costs not only for paper, notifications, envelopes and marketing inserts, but also for electronic storage of bill images, e-Bill enrollment, and payment processing.