

**City Council Questions and Answers for
Thursday, May 09, 2013**

These questions and answers are related to the
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on
Thursday, May 09, 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 # 7

- a. QUESTION: a) Please provide additional detail about the projects contemplated for this expenditure of bond funds in the areas of bikeways and pedestrian improvements; open space acquisition; library facility improvements; and cemetery renovations, park facility renovations and improvements, and park improvements. b) Please explain the prioritization process that has been used to identify this first round of projects and describe the process for prioritizing future bond expenditures. c) Please provide details for the Health and Human Services Facility Improvements. If this contemplated expenditure is not for the Women and Children's Shelter repairs and/or expansion, please provide information about when those initiatives might begin. COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: See attachment.

2. Agenda Item # 13

- a. QUESTION: a) What is the timeline for development of the app? b) Will it be developed in-house or outsourced? c) Are there plans for the catalogue to be available via the city's open data portal? COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON
- b. ANSWER: a) Although we are currently still evaluating mobile catalog options, the Library is planning to have a mobile solution implemented by mid-August. b) Outsourced. All of the 3rd party mobile catalog applications being considered by the Library have already been written specifically to integrate with the Library's automation system database that houses all of the Austin Public Library materials catalog data. Our current catalog is hosted by a 3rd party vendor, BiblioCommons. BiblioCommons offers a mobile application and there are advantages to using the same vendor for the mobile app because customer generated content (like Ratings, Comments, and Book lists) on our current catalogue would be similarly available in the mobile application. However, there are other mobile catalogue options available and the Library is currently evaluating those options looking at price, content, etc. to ensure that we select a mobile product that is the best option for our customers. c) The library's catalogue data is already accessible to the public. Due to the volume of data that is housed in the catalog, we are not sure it is a good fit for export to an Excel application and thus the open data portal.

3. Agenda Item # 22

- a. QUESTION: Please identify the departments involved in these purchases and the relative dollar amounts. COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: These are contract expenditures to date by department as well as their relative percentage of the total: Health and Human Service – \$714,451.49 (85.42%); Austin Police – \$73,138.99 (8.74%); Austin Fire – \$39,478.54 (4.72%); Austin Animal Center – \$9,286.56 (1.11%).

4. Agenda Item # 23

- a. QUESTION: a) What is the cost to the City for ROCIP VI as opposed to the contractors' costs? b) What does the \$6,455,000 mentioned in the RCA cover? COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY
- b. ANSWER: a) By the close of all claims related to ROCIP VI, we anticipate the final cost of to the CIP to be approximately \$735,000 less using the City's ROCIP program versus the cost if the contractors acquired their own insurance. We are not able to determine an exact total amount that will be saved until the program closes. b) Approval of the award of the administrative services contract authorizes Marsh to negotiate and purchase workers' compensation, general liability, and excess liability insurance in an amount not to exceed \$6,455,000. This covers premiums for a third-party. Administrative costs to Marsh USA of \$875,000 brings the total amount of the RCA to \$7,330,000.

5. Agenda Item # 46

- a. QUESTION: Last fall Council passed a resolution to initiate a stakeholder process that would review the impacts events have on parks and surrounding neighbors. Although meetings have been taking place regarding the Auditorium Shores planning, nearby neighbors do not seem to have been invited, nor do the discussions seem to have addressed the question of events and their impact on surrounding neighbors. Please address whether that's an accurate assessment, and provide an update about the stakeholder process, including how many meetings have been held, what topics were discussed, and who was in attendance. If a different stakeholder process is contemplated for the broader questions surrounding events, please provide details about when that will begin. A recent event was held in Butler Park; please indicate whether PARD would consider allowing an event to be scheduled there again. What is the maximum number of events that are now be scheduled at Auditorium Shores in one year? What is the total revenue PARD realized from these events in 2012? Is PARD working with organizers to identify other venues? If so, which venues? Can the work at Auditorium Shores be completed in less than one year? COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
- b. ANSWER: Pending

6. Agenda Item # 52


- a. QUESTION: a) Will this developer be required to dedicate land on the tract for parkland? b) Several neighbors have suggested that it might be appropriate to have a four-way stop sign at Peaceful Hill and Mairo. Have staff evaluated whether such a measure would be appropriate for that intersection? c) Where does Peaceful Hill Lane fall on the waiting list of streets to be considered for traffic calming? d) Has Shallot Way been added to the traffic calming queue?
COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO


- b. ANSWER: Pending

7. Agenda Items # 76 and 77

- a. QUESTION: a) The staff report lists the Building & Fire Code Board of Appeals (Technical Board) as having reviewed this proposal but did not take action at their February meeting due to a lack of quorum – was it considered or action taken at a subsequent meeting? b) A briefing on October 9th, 2012 occurred before the planning commission – were there any recommendations from the commission at this or subsequent meetings? c) The staff report references position statements by the Austin Hotel Lodging Association and the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association but no letters were included for those groups – if available can they be provided? d) At what point during the process was the “Final Proposal - Enhance exterior structural components” developed? MAYOR PRO TEM COLE
- b. ANSWER: This item will be postponed to the May 23, 2013 meeting. At that time, staff will provide a response.

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.

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Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Item # 7	Meeting Date	May 9, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

The appropriation requested through the budget amendment is a small piece of the entire bond program (12%) since only approximately four and half months of the fiscal year remain. Future appropriations will be requested through the annual budget process as part of the overall capital budget. The bond program includes far more projects/programs to be implemented in future fiscal years than are noted below.

1. Examples of projects to be initiated with the proposed budget amendment:

- a. Bikeways/Pedestrian Improvements: MoPac Bicycle Bridge, Country Club Creek Trail, Shoal Creek restoration, citywide bikeway improvements; Citywide pedestrian/sidewalk improvements
- b. Open Space Acquisition: 93.65 acres located on Escarpment Blvd. in the Barton Springs Recharge Zone (Item 17 on May 9, 2013 Council agenda)
- c. Library Facility Improvements: Millwood and Pleasant Hill Branch renovations and University Hill Branch parking lot expansion
- d. Cemetery Renovations: Austin Memorial Park
- e. Park Facility Renovations and Improvements: Elisabet Ney Museum, Montopolis Community Center, West Enfield Pool, ADA Fishing Pier
- f. Park Improvements: Dove Springs District Park, ADA Fishing Pier
- g. Health and Human Services Improvements: Betty Dunkerley Campus infrastructure improvements and expansion of parking at the Far South and Montopolis Neighborhood Clinics, Montopolis Community Center
 - i. Initial funding for the Women and Children's Shelter Renovations/Expansion is slated for inclusion in the FY14 proposed budget. Staff is considering the scope and requirements of this project, particularly in relation to the expansion, in more detail to ensure it is ready to move forward upon receipt of appropriation.

2. Factors utilized to identify what was included in the first round of funding and will be used on an ongoing basis:

- a. Is the project ready to move forward at this time? For example, has the scope been defined adequately? Are all coordination requirements resolved both internally and externally?
- b. Relation to existing master plans and Council direction (eg. Bicycle Master Plan and ADA Fishing

Pier)

- c. How the project fits in with existing department work plans and available staff resources
- d. Desired completion dates
- e. Procurement requirements
- f. How the project/program spending plans impact the overall financial picture of the bond program in relation to requirement that the bond program not increase the debt service portion of the tax rate.