



**City Council Questions and Answers for
Thursday, November 07, 2013**

These questions and answers are related to the
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on
Thursday, November 07, 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 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

1. Agenda Items # 8 and # 9
 - a. QUESTION: Was the independent appraisal amount for more or less than the proposed purchase price? Please explain how this facility is part of the long term plan for the department. What plan is in place to prevent any adverse effects on nearby schools and residents? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
 - b. ANSWER: See attachment.
2. Agenda Items # 8, # 9, and # 18
 - a. QUESTION: Will the proposed facility be used as a MRF or transfer station? COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ
 - b. ANSWER: There will be no MRF, no transfer station, and no transfer of waste at this site.
3. Agenda Item # 15
 - a. QUESTION: What has changed since the budget process that necessitates a need to increase fees and staff? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
 - b. ANSWER: The new FTE request was submitted as an unmet need during the FY14 financial forecast. Funding to cover the cost of this FTE was provided as a result of a revision to the Travis County Public Health ILA cost model calculation for environmental health services. The additional revenue was included in the FY14 financial forecast. There was no "fee" change. Adding the new FTE was contingent on Travis County's approval of the revised costing methodology. Commissioner's Court and City Council approved the Travis County Public Health ILA on September 24 and 26 respectively, which was after the adoption of the FY14 budget.
4. Agenda Item # 16
 - a. QUESTION: Please provide reasoning for funding this item from HHS budget instead of the Law dept budget- specifically, how is this related to Health and Human Services? How are lawsuit expenses typically handled? Please provide a budget for the \$120,000. What exactly is involved in being an "amicus?" COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN

- b. ANSWER: During the budget process Council allocated \$280,000 for outside counsel to represent the city in the ongoing litigation challenging the voter id law in Texas. Council allocated the money to the Law Department, however during the budget process the money was incorrectly allocated to the HHSD. City staff in both departments communicated about the funding, and all understand how the funds are to be used. Lawsuits against the city are funded through the Liability Reserve Fund. When the City brings a lawsuit, the funding typically comes from the budget of the department involved in the litigation.

5. Agenda Item # 30

- a. QUESTION: This contract for publishing/codification services can be awarded to the staff-recommended company or the other qualified offeror. 1) Please provide information on the other qualified offeror and an explanation as to why the recommended company's proposal was deemed "best". 2) In general, when the Council has the option to select the staff recommendation or another qualified offeror for a contract award, what process is in place to ensure that the backup to the agenda item includes all relevant information about the options so that Council can make an informed decision? 3) Has there been any thought given yet to procurement of a smart phone or tablet application to access our code? COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON

- b. ANSWER: See attachment

6. Agenda Items # 34, # 35, and # 36

- a. QUESTION: 1) Please describe the each of the substantive differences between these items, or provide a red line for what is different between them. 2) Please provide fiscal notes for each item. 3) Also, please provide an assessment from NHCD about how this will impact housing costs for families in Austin. COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN


- b. ANSWER: These items are being postponed to the November 21, 2013 Council meeting. Staff will respond to these questions during that time.


7. Agenda Item # 48

- a. QUESTION: Please provide some information on approximately how many units in Austin that are over current occupancy limits. What cities, including those in Texas, currently use occupancy limits, and what are their limits? Has there been any data accumulated about what the impacts of these occupancy limits are, including with regard to affordability, "sprawl," and traffic congestion? If the city lowers its occupancy limits, more housing units may be needed, please provide a plan for addressing this. Please have NHCD provide an assessment of how this change would impact affordability in Austin. COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN

b. ANSWER: Pending

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 (512) 974-2210 OR (512) 974-2445 TDD.*



Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Items # 8 and # 9	Meeting Date	November 7, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

QUESTION: 1) Was the independent appraisal amount for more or less than the proposed purchase price? 2) Please explain how this facility is part of the long term plan for the department. 3) What plan is in place to prevent any adverse effects on nearby schools and residents? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN

ANSWER: 1) The purchase price is based on a counter offer which was deemed reasonable by the original third party appraiser.

2) The Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan provides advanced planning for a new North Service Facility (p. 65-67). The North Service Facility will include the following:

- Service vehicle deployment to the northern 60% of ARR service territory (ARR Master Plan p.65)
- ARR North CNG / Diesel Fueling Facility (ARR Master Plan p.58)
- Second Household Hazardous Waste Facility (ARR Master Plan p.15 & p.129)
- Reuse/Recycling Drop-off Center (ARR Master Plan p.80)
- Administrative Offices Consolidation (ARR Master Plan p.65)

3) The Department will meet with the local residents and school principal to establish community needs regarding this site use. The site will be landscaped to prevent neighborhood sight of the operations from the street and any adjoining properties. All vehicle traffic to this site will be routed from the north, with a prohibition of city vehicle traffic near the school to the south of the property. Lighting will face inward and away from neighbors. There will be no MRF, no waste transfer station, and no transfer of waste at this site. The drainage swale in the center of the property will be developed as a green belt for local residents to walk from the neighborhood behind the facility to the city park with a marked crossing across the road. The facility will meet community standards regarding appearance and environmental sustainability. A detailed facility development plan (with community input) will be presented to Council at a later date to request funding for the construction of the facility.



Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Item # 30	Meeting Date	November 7, 2013
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Additional Answer Information

QUESTION: This contract for publishing/codification services can be awarded to the staff-recommended company or the other qualified offeror. 1) Please provide information on the other qualified offeror and an explanation as to why the recommended company's proposal was deemed "best". 2) In general, when the Council has the option to select the staff recommendation or another qualified offeror for a contract award, what process is in place to ensure that the backup to the agenda item includes all relevant information about the options so that Council can make an informed decision? 3) Has there been any thought given yet to procurement of a smart phone or tablet application to access our code? COUNCIL MEMBER MORRISON

ANSWER: 1) Please see the matrix below on the other qualified offerors.

EVALUATION CRITERIA RFP JSD0136		Total Points	Municipal Code Corporation Tallahassee, FL	American Legal Legal Publishing Cincinnati, OH
1	Identification and understanding of the City and the City's requirements for this project.	40	36	36
2	Demonstrated Applicable Experience	20	20	20
3	Total Evaluated Cost	30	30	23
4	Local Business Presence	10	0	0
GRAND TOTAL SCORE		100	86	79

NOTE: As per Section 252.049 of the local government code, contents of a proposal shall remain confidential until a contract is awarded or as directed by the Texas Attorney General's Office. Therefore, the matrix will include points awarded for price but exact pricing will not be disclosed.

2) An evaluation matrix is usually attached in SIRE (the agenda management system). In this case, there was an oversight and the matrix was not attached prior to posting.

3) The interface is compatible with smart phones and tablets. This contract does not procure devices.