



Thursday, March 8, 2018

The Questions and Answers Report will convene at
on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at Austin City Hall
301 W. Second Street
Austin, TX



Mayor Steve Adler
Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, District 9
Council Member Ora Houston, District 1
Council Member Delia Garz, District 2
Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria, District 3
Council Member Gregorio Casar, District 4
Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5
Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, District 6
Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7
Council Member Ellen Troxclair, District 8
Council Member Alison Alter, District 10

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

5. **Agenda Item #5:** Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, or one of the other qualified offerors to Request For Proposals 8600 SLW0522, to provide a parks and recreation long range plan, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

QUESTION: Please provide the status for each of the recommendations found in Chapter 10 of the current PARD long range plan for planning areas 1-4 (starting on page 327). Please also provide the status of any progress made on the recommendations found in Chapter 10 of the current PARD long range plan for aquatics, tennis, athletics, golf, and new facilities (found on page 319).

COUNCIL MEMBER ATLER'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

See attachment.

6. **Agenda Item #6:** Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with Communication By Hand, LLC, or one of the other qualified offerors to Request For Proposals 5800 MHJ0116, to provide sign language interpreters, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$905,000.

QUESTION:

Although there were no subcontracting opportunities and goals, will the sign language interpreters utilized by the Contractor be comprised of interpreters with the ability to provide translation services to culturally diverse populations?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOUSTON'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

According to the recommended contractor, "Communication by Hand, has been honored to serve the diverse community of the City of Austin for the past 25 years with a diverse pool of interpreters. These interpreters come from all cultures and backgrounds: LGBTQ, various religions, ethnicities, Deaf families, hearing families, prosperous families and those families that struggle economically. Communication by Hand's goal has and will continue to be of service to the City of Austin community so communication can be effective, successful, and bring an equal footing for all involved. Communication by Hand is keen to the issues of discrimination and audism as the Deaf community experiences this regularly. Communication by Hand is here to empower the local community to communicate, to make their voice heard."

7. **Agenda Item #7:** Authorize negotiation and execution of an additional contract through the State of Texas SmartBuy cooperative purchasing program with Evenflo Company Inc., for infant and toddler car seats, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, for a total aggregate contract amount for this fiscal year not to exceed \$83,000.

QUESTION:

How many car seats will this buy?
COUNCIL MEMBER HOUSTON'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

This purchase for \$25,000 will allow us to buy approximately 530 car seats.

- 26. Agenda Item #26:** C14-2017-0125 - 2514 Thrasher - District 3 - Conduct a public hearing and approve an ordinance amending City Code Title 25 by rezoning property locally known as 2514 Thrasher Lane (West Country Club Creek and Carson Creek Watersheds). Applicant Request: To rezone from general commercial services -conditional overlay- neighborhood plan (CS-CO-NP) combining district zoning to general commercial services - mixed use - neighborhood plan (CS-MU-NP) combining district zoning. Staff Recommendation: To deny general commercial services - mixed use - neighborhood plan (CS-MU-NP) combining district zoning. Planning Commission Recommendation: To grant general commercial services - mixed use-conditional overlay - neighborhood plan (CS-MU-CO-NP) combining district zoning. Agent: Drenner Group (Leah Bojo). Owner: Larry and Elizabeth Petree. City Staff: Andrew Moore, 512-974-7604.

QUESTION:

- 1) The Planning Commission recommended adding a conditional overlay to prohibit any residential use within the 1000 foot "Praxair Buffer." Generally speaking, how would this situation be handled under the current draft 3 of CodeNEXT and is this mechanism absent under our current code?
- 2) The Planning Commission recommended adding a conditional overlay to restrict access to Thrasher Lane to 300 trips. Generally speaking, how would this situation be handled under the current draft 3 of CodeNEXT and is this mechanism absent under our current code?
- 3) The Planning Commission recommended adding a conditional overlay to require Right-of-Way dedication for the extension of Thrasher Lane at the time of site plan. Generally speaking, how would this situation be handled under the current draft 3 of CodeNEXT and is this mechanism absent under our current code?

COUNCIL MEMBER FLANNIGAN'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

- 1) The 1000 foot Praxair buffer came from an Austin Fire Department (AFD) recommendation based on the presence of hazardous materials at the Praxair facility. CodeNEXT does not address these type of site-specific issues. What would likely happen is we end up with two zoning districts: one would allow mixed use, the other would prohibit residential. There is a proposed Industrial Flex category where live+work is allowed; AFD would be consulted at the time of site plan.
- 2) We cannot prohibit a property owner taking access to public right of way if it is their sole access. It can be restricted if the right of way is inadequate for a high intensity use. This particular property will likely take access to another roadway (Montopolis or Carson Ridge) which is suitable for a high intensity use. CodeNEXT will reduce the threshold for requiring a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) from 2000 trips/day to 1000 trips/day. It will also give Austin Transportation Department and Development Services Department the ability to require traffic mitigation for projects below 1000 trip/day, thus removing the need to restrict trips in zoning.
- 3) The dedication of right of way is being deferred to site plan for this case. Right of way dedication can happen at subdivision, site plan or zoning under current code and that will also be the case with CodeNEXT. Transportation Staff are also updating their Roadway Master Plan, which will be supported by CodeNEXT, allowing greater coordination to improve our roadway system.

- 32. Agenda Item #32:** Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance regarding floodplain variances for the remodel of a commercial building at 1200 Barton Springs Road within the 25-year and 100-year floodplains of West Bouldin Creek.

QUESTION: If this variance is granted, what legal liability, if any, does the city assume for any harm suffered by individuals or property in the event of flooding on this site?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

The Law Department will respond to this question separately.

- 35. Agenda Item #35:** Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending the rates charged to Austin Water's retail customers for water and wastewater services (Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 20170913-002) and amending Austin Water's 2017-2018 Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20170913-001) to account for the corresponding reduction in revenue.

QUESTION:

Please provide a comparison of Austin Water and Austin Energy rates (residential) and bills over the last 10 years. We are looking for a report on rates for Austin Water and Austin Energy over the last 10 years and a report of bills for Austin Water and Austin Energy. For simplicity sake, it seems like using a consistent annual usage, rather than a changing one, would be easier to understand.

COUNCIL MEMBER TROXCLAIR'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

See attachment.



Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-1585, Agenda Item #: 5.

3/8/2018

Agenda Item

Agenda Item #5: Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, or one of the other qualified offerors to Request For Proposals 8600 SLW0522, to provide a parks and recreation long range plan, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

QUESTION: Please provide the status for each of the recommendations found in Chapter 10 of the current PARD long range plan for planning areas 1-4 (starting on page 327). Please also provide the status of any progress made on the recommendations found in Chapter 10 of the current PARD long range plan for aquatics, tennis, athletics, golf, and new facilities (found on page 319).

COUNCIL MEMBER ATLER'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

See attachment.



Related To

Item #5

Meeting Date

March 8, 2018

Additional Answer Information

QUESTION:

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ANSWER:

- 1)** *Please provide the status for each of the recommendations found in Chapter 10 of the current PARD long range plan for planning areas 1-4 (starting on page 327)?*

Below is the status for each recommendation found in Chapter 10 for Planning Areas 1-4 in the current PARD long range plan.

| Planning Area 1 | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| | Shoal Creek Corridor Improvements and trail extension to NW Rec. Center. | Shoal Creek Corridor Improvements Completed, Pending connection to N.W. Rec. Center. |
| | Shoal Creek Corridor Improvements and trail extension to 5 th Street: | Completed |
| | Implement the enhance plan for trail at Lady Bird Lake | Portions completed, other in progress. |
| | Historic Square improvements: Brush | In progress |
| | Historic Square improvements: Wooldridge | Completed |
| | Redevelop and revitalize Waller Creek Trail and Corridor: | In progress |
| | Redevelop Duncan Neigh. Park: | In progress |
| | Master Plan and develop Pease District Park: | Master Plan completed; Development in progress. |
| | Master Plan and development of Shoal and Waller Beach Park: | In progress |
| | Implement Downtown Open Space plan for wayfinding: | Pending |
| | Develop Austin Recreation Center | Pending |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| | Playscape: | |
| | Design and construction phase III of the Emma S. Barrientos (MACC): | Master Plan completed; construction pending future bond funding |
| Planning Area 2 | | |
| | Shoal Creek Corridor Improvements and trail extension to NW Rec. Center: | Shoal Creek Corridor Improvements Completed, Pending connection to N.W. Rec. Center. |
| | Master Plan and develop Pease District Park: | Master Plan completed; Development in progress |
| Planning Area 3 | | |
| | Land acquisition and development of a pocket or neighborhood park. | Land acquisition pending future bond funding; Currently developing Murchison Pool |
| | Steck Valley Greenway Improvements: | Pending |
| | Master Plan and development of Bull Creek District Park | Master Plan completed; development in progress |
| Planning Area 4 | | |
| | Upper Bull Creek Trail Development: | Pending |
| | Great Hills Neighborhood Park Trail development | Completed |

- 2) Please also provide the status of any progress made on the recommendations found in Chapter 10 of the current PARD long range plan for aquatics, tennis, athletics, golf, and new facilities (found on page 319).

Status of Recommendations from Chapter 10, page. 319

| | |
|---|---|
| Aquatics | |
| Improve and upgrade existing swimming facilities and team equipment throughout the park system. | Completed the Aquatics Master Plan that will guide future investment. PARD renovated Bartholomew, Westenfield and Deep Eddy pools and is currently rebuilding Shipe and Govalle pools. PARD continues to upgrade existing pools |
| Evenly distributed splash pads throughout Austin | Pending |
| Develop a Natatorium that is centrally located | Pending future funding opportunities |
| Tennis | |
| Improve and upgrade existing tennis facilities throughout the park system | In progress. Court resurfacing has occurred at Little Zilker, Mt. View, South Austin, Rosewood, Westenfield, PanAm and Patterson Park |
| Provide showers at tennis centers where feasible | Pending future funding opportunities |
| Provide more opportunities for play on tennis courts in neighborhood parks. | In progress. Have added features to the courts listed above such as Pickle Ball and youth tennis lines. |
| Athletics | |
| Provide Multi-purpose fields that are not dedicated for programmed or organized | In progress. Constructing multi-purpose fields at Onion Creek Metro Park. Others pending future |

| | |
|---|---|
| league use | funding opportunities |
| Renovate existing youth fields. | Pending. |
| Golf | |
| Pursue opportunities to secure and increase public golf courses throughout the community. | In progress: COA purchased Grey Rock Golf Course in southwest Austin. COA is providing information to the Council on the possible scenarios to acquire, or lease Lions Municipal Golf Course. |
| Playgrounds | |
| Provide play and learning opportunities for toddlers (6 months to 2 years) at appropriate locations | In progress, in partnership with AISD to provide pocket parks at selected school sites. |
| Provide diversified play for 6 months to teens and special needs | Completed 66 playground surfacing conversions to comply with ADA and current playground safety standards some of which included complete equipment replacements. |
| New Facility Distribution | |
| Evenly distribute off-leash area, skate parks, and BMX parks throughout Austin. | Pending future funding opportunities |
| Provide recreation complexes in southwest and far northwest Austin. | Montopolis new Rec Center and Dove Springs Rec Center expansion will be under construction this summer. Pending future funding opportunities |
| Facility Improvements | |
| Ensure all existing and new park facilities are barrier free, and increase recreational opportunities for special needs populations | Completed an ADA assessment and created an ADA transition plan. Pending funding for improvements and repairs |
| Ensure all facilities are upgraded to achieve safety and security for all users | In progress at some facilities and pending future funding opportunities |
| Evaluate the need for shade at recreational spaces and provide as appropriate | In Progress: Installing shade structures at some aquatic and playscape facilities; Pending future funding opportunities for continuation |
| Develop field offices and training facilities for the athletics and aquatics staff. | Permanent field offices for Athletics Staff is pending; However, permanent offices and training facility is completed for the Aquatic Staff. |



Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-1513, Agenda Item #: 6.

3/8/2018

Agenda Item

Agenda Item #6: Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with Communication By Hand, LLC, or one of the other qualified offerors to Request For Proposals 5800 MHJ0116, to provide sign language interpreters, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$905,000.

QUESTION:

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COUNCIL MEMBER HOUSTON'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

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Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-1581, Agenda Item #: 7.

3/8/2018

Agenda Item

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QUESTION:

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COUNCIL MEMBER HOUSTON'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

This purchase for \$25,000 will allow us to buy approximately 530 car seats.



Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-1579, Agenda Item #: 26.

3/8/2018

Agenda Item

Agenda Item #26: C14-2017-0125 - 2514 Thrasher - District 3 - Conduct a public hearing and approve an ordinance amending City Code Title 25 by rezoning property locally known as 2514 Thrasher Lane (West Country Club Creek and Carson Creek Watersheds). Applicant Request: To rezone from general commercial services -conditional overlay-neighborhood plan (CS-CO-NP) combining district zoning to general commercial services - mixed use - neighborhood plan (CS-MU-NP) combining district zoning. Staff Recommendation: To deny general commercial services - mixed use - neighborhood plan (CS-MU-NP) combining district zoning. Planning Commission Recommendation: To grant general commercial services - mixed use-conditional overlay - neighborhood plan (CS-MU-CO-NP) combining district zoning. Agent: Drenner Group (Leah Bojo). Owner: Larry and Elizabeth Petree. City Staff: Andrew Moore, 512-974-7604.

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Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-1577, Agenda Item #: 32.

3/8/2018

Agenda Item

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QUESTION: If this variance is granted, what legal liability, if any, does the city assume for any harm suffered by individuals or property in the event of flooding on this site?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

The Law Department will respond to this question separately.



Recommendation for Action

File #: 18-1586, Agenda Item #: 35.

3/8/2018

Agenda Item

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QUESTION:

Please provide a comparison of Austin Water and Austin Energy rates (residential) and bills over the last 10 years. We are looking for a report on rates for Austin Water and Austin Energy over the last 10 years and a report of bills for Austin Water and Austin Energy. For simplicity sake, it seems like using a consistent annual usage, rather than a changing one, would be easier to understand.

COUNCIL MEMBER TROXCLAIR'S OFFICE

ANSWER:

See attachment.

City of Austin's Utilities Historical Rate Changes

| | City Council Approved | | | | | | | | | | Projected | Annual Average |
|--|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| | FY2009* | FY2010 | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 | FY2016 | FY2017 | FY2018 | FY2019 | |
| System-wide Base Rate Percentage Changes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Austin Water | 9.70% | 5.70% | 5.40% | 6.60% | 6.50% | 7.70% | 13.50% | 4.80% | 2.90% | 0.00% | (5.20%) | 5.24% |
| Austin Wastewater | 4.50% | 3.30% | 3.60% | 3.50% | 6.00% | 2.30% | 2.30% | 4.80% | 3.00% | 0.00% | (4.10%) | 2.65% |
| Combined Austin Water Utility | 7.00% | 4.50% | 4.50% | 5.10% | 6.20% | 5.00% | 8.10% | 4.90% | 3.00% | 0.00% | (4.80%) | 3.95% |
| Austin Energy | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 6.61% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | (6.65%) | 0.00% | 0.00% | (0.00%) |
| Residential Bill Percentage Variance*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Austin Water | 9.79% | 3.38% | 6.00% | 29.12% | 8.81% | 13.93% | 18.70% | 7.13% | 3.30% | 0.00% | (3.10%) | 8.82% |
| Austin Wastewater | 5.90% | 4.62% | 5.35% | 3.45% | 8.54% | 0.16% | 2.90% | 6.39% | 4.05% | 0.00% | (2.70%) | 3.51% |
| Combined Austin Water Utility | 7.34% | 4.15% | 5.60% | 13.17% | 8.66% | 6.12% | 10.24% | 6.76% | 3.68% | 0.00% | (2.90%) | 5.71% |
| Austin Energy**** | 0.00% | 0.00% | (4.91%) | 3.51% | 7.12% | 5.14% | 2.59% | (4.74%) | (2.89%) | 2.17% | 0.75% | 0.79% |
| Residential Bill***** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Austin Water | \$ 18.05 | \$ 18.66 | \$ 19.78 | \$ 25.54 | \$ 27.79 | \$ 31.66 | \$ 37.58 | \$ 40.26 | \$ 41.59 | \$ 41.59 | \$ 40.31 | \$ 31.16 |
| Austin Wastewater | \$ 29.46 | \$ 30.82 | \$ 32.47 | \$ 33.59 | \$ 36.46 | \$ 36.52 | \$ 37.58 | \$ 39.98 | \$ 41.60 | \$ 41.60 | \$ 40.48 | \$ 36.41 |
| Combined Austin Water Utility | \$ 47.51 | \$ 49.48 | \$ 52.25 | \$ 59.13 | \$ 64.25 | \$ 68.18 | \$ 75.16 | \$ 80.24 | \$ 83.19 | \$ 83.19 | \$ 80.79 | \$ 67.58 |
| Austin Energy***** | \$ 94.88 | \$ 94.88 | \$ 90.22 | \$ 93.39 | \$ 100.04 | \$ 105.18 | \$ 107.90 | \$ 102.79 | \$ 99.82 | \$ 101.99 | \$ 102.75 | \$ 99.44 |

NOTES:

* : For Austin Energy, prior base revenue change was in 1994.

** : Base rates do not include pass-through charges associated with utility service, such as fuel costs

*** : Percentage variance based on difference between residential bill and previous residential bill divided by the previous residential bill.

**** : Reflects both base and pass-through rate changes.

***** : Residential bill based on 5,800 gallons (water), 4,000 gallons (wastewater), and 1,000 kilowatt-hours (electricity). ***** : For Austin Energy, the current average residential monthly consumption is 860 kilowatt-hours for electricity.