



April 9, 2020

Questions and Answers Report



Mayor Steve Adler

Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, District 2

Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1

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 Paige Ellis, District 8

Council Member Kathie Tovo, District 9

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

Item #40: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 25-12 (Technical Codes) to adopt and amend the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

What kind of education, engagement, and outreach will accompany the implementation of the WUI code?

The Austin Fire Department (AFD) Fire Marshal's Office, in conjunction with our Wildfire Division, plan to provide extensive outreach and education related to implementation of the Wildland Urban-Interface (WUI) code. Our offices plan to attend stakeholder meetings to provide regular updates. Additionally, AFD will re-engage previous stakeholders through a digital campaign. When needed, AFD will schedule WUI specific meetings to educate the public and various key stakeholders.

The information provided is an outline of what AFD plans to conduct for the WUI code. This list is based on the current capacity and funding available to AFD at this time, and is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all outreach efforts. Currently, AFD plans to:

- Engage the Development Services Department (DSD) stakeholder list via email to inform developers of the new changes within the WUI code;
- Deliver WUI code information and address questions during the DSD Quarterly stakeholders meeting;
- Deliver WUI code information and address questions at the Austin Fire Marshal's annual stakeholders meeting in late summer;
- Attend public meetings and briefings to key partners including: Firewise Alliance, neighborhood associations, civic associations, professional organizations (landscaping, tree care, and building materials)
- Attend presentations, and provide memos, and/or briefings to: Public Safety Commission, Environmental Commission, Zoning and Platting Commission, Planning Commission, and Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals;
- Continue engagement with Home Builders Association (HBA) and Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA) and follow their suggestions for how to best engage their members;
- Continue to engage agency partners including: City, County, and State and provide briefings on how their programs may be impacted by the new WUI code;
- Continue engagement with established partnerships including: Wildfire Coalition, Public Lands Management Team, Green Infrastructure Priority Program Implementation Team, Parks

Department (PARD) Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) group, Watershed Protection Department (WPD) Grow Green, Urban Forest Leadership Team, and other partnerships.

- Attend DSD, WPD, PARD, Austin Water Utility (AWU), and Austin Energy (AE) staff briefings;
- Provide formal training to DSD intake staff to determine if a fire review is required;
- Hire and train AFD plan reviewers and inspection staff on WUI code review and inspection process; and
- Regularly provide outreach and education by AFD after WUI code implementation.

We are committed to provide as much education, engagement, and outreach as necessary to make sure our customers are informed and prepared for the program when it is implemented. If approved this week we would have 8 months to spread the message.

Item #63: Approve an amendment to a contract with MJR Partners for consulting services to guide the review and evaluation of the Cultural Funding Program in the amount of \$80,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$125,000.

COUNCIL MEMBER FLANNIGAN'S OFFICE

Why did the costs go up from the original posting of #3?

The original amount for the contract amendment was put forward only to address the continuation of service for the Cultural Funding Review Process, prior to considering a full expansion of scope to address the three HOT-funded programs administered by Economic Development Dept. Once the full scope was confirmed to include all three programs, the amount was increased.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

What is the funding source for this item so that it has no fiscal impact?

The Economic Development Funds are from a cost-share model between the General Fund, Austin Water, Austin Energy, and Austin Resource Recovery.

2019-20 Approved Budget, Austin, TX

Economic Development Fund

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20
	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Amended	Approved
Beginning Balance	635,615	987,708	948,613	718,390	693,759
Revenue					
Other Revenue	127,185	78,290	105,000	105,000	105,000
Interest	35,311	68,318	88,537	28,087	65,000
Total Revenue	162,496	146,608	193,537	133,087	170,000
Transfers In					
Austin Energy	7,492,992	6,872,809	8,535,853	8,535,853	9,069,619
General Fund	4,862,671	5,560,366	6,691,134	6,691,134	6,811,241
Austin Water Utility	2,928,899	3,233,332	3,867,071	3,867,071	4,000,466
Austin Resource Recovery Fund	471,975	484,548	576,783	576,783	611,514
Total Transfers In	15,756,537	16,151,055	19,670,841	19,670,841	20,492,840
Total Available Funds	15,919,033	16,297,663	19,864,378	19,803,928	20,662,840

Item #65: Authorize the ratification of an agreement with Hotel USA Partners, LLC, for the City to occupy the real property located at 6121 N. Interstate Highway 35 for emergency housing, isolation, and

support services related to COVID-19 for a 60-day term, with an option to extend for two additional 30-day terms, for an amount not to exceed \$2,804,760.00.4

COUNCIL MEMBER POOL'S OFFICE

Can staff tell us if there are any conversations with the University of Texas about providing facilities for isolation/quarantine and COVID-19 related support services on the campus? If so, please describe the facilities that UT is considering or preparing for such use, and if the City of Austin will be able to partner with the university for use of those facilities.

Pending



Council Question and Answer

Related To	Item #40	Meeting Date	April 9, 2020
Additional Answer Information			

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QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

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Council Question and Answer

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Additional Answer Information			

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QUESTION/ANSWER: Council Member Alter's Office

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