

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
May 5, 2014

The Council Committee of the Whole met on Monday, May 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Council President Ashley Weaver with the following members present: Mayor Ron Shaffer, Ashley Weaver, Jori Nelson, Ruth Hopkins, Steve Noll (arrived late), Eric Mikkelson, Andrew Wang, Laura Wassmer, Brooke Morehead, Dan Runion, Courtney McFadden, Ted Odell and Terrence Gallagher. Staff Members present: Wes Jordan, Chief of Police; Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director; Katie Logan, City Attorney; Quinn Bennion, City Administrator; Kate Gunja, Assistant City Administrator; Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director; Danielle Dulin, Assistant to the City Administrator; Nic Sanders, Human Resources Manager and Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk.

***COU2014-12 Consider Easement Acquisition Services Agreement with Skeens Consulting Services, Inc. for Project 75ST0001: 75th Street from State Line Road to Mission Road**

Keith Bredehoeft noted the 75th Street project will improve the existing infrastructure and will also look to improve pedestrian accommodations and make 75th Street a more aesthetically pleasing corridor. The project is scheduled to receive \$1.6 Million in Federal Funds through the Mid America Regional Council(MARC) under the Bike/Pedestrian and Livable Communities category. The Federal Funds are to be used in 2014.

As a Federally Funded project any construction easements or permanent easements must follow all Federal guidelines. Most properties along this corridor will require a temporary construction easement so the contractor can construct the project improvements adjacent to the right of way. There are 61 tract that require easements.

This agreement with Skeens Consulting Services, Inc is for the acquisition and negotiation services needed to acquire the easements needed for the project. Mr. Bredehoeft noted, that as we typically do, the City will seek donations of the easements as the improvements are a benefit to property owners but we will have to offer and pay compensation if the property owners choose as required by Federal guidelines. The easement appraisal services were provided by Land Company Real Estate Services, Inc. and dollar amounts.

Three firms that are familiar with the Federal Guidelines were asked for costs to provide these services and is summarized below.

	Acquisition and Negotiation Services per Tract
Land Company Real Estate Services	\$495.00
Valbridge Property Advisors	\$500.00
Skeens Consulting Services, Inc.	\$475.00

Based on 61 Tracts, Skeens Consulting Services, Inc is the lowest cost at \$28,975.00. Funding is available under Project 75ST0001: 75th State Line Road to Mission Road.

Brooke Morehead asked what was the range of easement values. Mr. Bredehoeft responded the largest is \$9,000 and the lowest is under \$1000.

Jori Nelson stated that she viewed Skeens website to view their experience and asked if they had negotiating experience and if the property owners have to take the established valuation. Mr. Bredehoeft responded they are lawyers with experience and he is very comfortable that they will represent the City well.

Terrence Gallagher confirmed that the representative will make an offer, but he cannot deny or accept the offer - it must be accepted by the City.

Dan Runion asked when the consulting fee was payable. Mr. Bredehoeft responded it is payable when the acquisition is made.

Quinn Bennion asked if any property was being acquired. Mr. Bredehoeft responded only easement will be required, but noted that some of the easements acquired will be permanent easements.

Andrew Wang made the following motion, which was seconded by Brooke Morehead and passed unanimously:

MOVE THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH SKEENS CONSULTING SERVICES, INC. FOR ACQUISITION SERVICES FOR PROJECT 75ST0001:75TH STREET REHABILITATION FROM STATE LINE ROAD TO MISSION ROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,975.00

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN
05/05/2014**

COU2014-13 Consider authorizing the Public Works Director to acquire easements for Project: 75ST0002 - 75th Street from State Line Road to Mission Road

Keith Bredehoeft stated this is related to the previous action. The Federal Guidelines require that authorization is given by the Governing Body to acquire easements and to approve the values that can be offered for the acquisitions.

Eric Mikkelson made the following motion, which was seconded by Andrew Wang and passed unanimously:

MOVE THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO ACQUIRE EASEMENTS FOR 61 TRACTS OF OF LAND VALUED AT \$162,869 AND GRANT THE ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE 20% OVER THIS AMOUNT UP TO A TOTAL OF \$196,000.

**COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN
05/05/2014**

COU2014-14 Consider 2015-2019 CARS Application

Keith Bredehoeft stated that in order to receive CARS funds, the City must annually submit an application containing a list of streets and the estimated costs. The following streets are recommended for the five-year CARS program, 2015-2019. The Public Works Department compiled the list based on the pavement condition. The work will

include where necessary full depth pavement repair, curb and gutter replacement, sidewalk repair, new sidewalk and milling/overlaying the pavement.

Program Year	Street Segment	From	To	CARS Eligible Costs	County CARS Funds
2015	Roe Avenue	75 th Street	83 rd Street	\$1,163,000	\$581,500
2016	Roe Avenue	63 rd Street	67 th Street	\$882,000	\$441,000
2017	Roe Avenue	67 th Street	71 st Street	\$888,000	\$444,000
2018	Roe Avenue	71 st Street	75 th Street	\$664,000	\$332,000
2019	Mission Road	75 th Street	83 rd Street	\$1,320,000	\$660,000

He noted that the City submits an application annually and can revise future year requests. The costs include construction and construction administration. Design costs are not included, as the CARS program does not fund design. Funding is planned for the 2015 Project on Roe Avenue and is included in the CIP. Future year's projects will be funded with each year's budget.

Eric Mikkelson confirmed that only some roads are eligible for the program.

Terrence Gallagher why Somerset was not completed Lee Blvd to State Line Road and would it qualify for CARS funding. Mr. Bredehoeft responded it has been approved for CARS funding in 2014 and will be completed later this year.

Ashley Weaver made the following motion, which was seconded by Jori Nelson and passed unanimously:

**MOVE THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE SUBMITTAL OF THE
2015-2019 COUNTY ASSISTANCE ROADS SYSTEM (CARS)
PROGRAM**

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED
CONSENT AGENDA**

Information Technology Initiatives Presentation

Quinn Bennion noted that over the past several months staff have been evaluating Information Technology, phone and internet services for both short term and long term solutions. Staff has investigated shifting away from services provided by the private

sector to collaborative shared system governmental services. The primary goals are 1) increase efficiency and services and 2) to save operating costs. The presentation by Nic Sanders, Human Resources Manager, will cover four areas. Mr. Bennion noted that no official action is being requested this evening, only Council direction.

Information Technology Consulting

Nic Sanders stated that current technology services are being provided by Alexander Open Systems (AOS). They have provided the city services for more than ten years and are very familiar with the city's needs and network. They provide 12 hours per week on-site service and offer desktop support and server support.

Staff is recommending that IT services be provided by Johnson County Information Technology Services (JoCo IT) in the future. JoCo IT is utilized by several other northeast Johnson County agencies. In doing so the city would realize a cost savings beginning the second year. With the added costs of setup the initial year cost would be slightly higher. JoCo IT would add a staff person to be located in Northeast Johnson County.

Mr. Sanders noted participation with JoCo IT would provide 24 x 7 support and better buying power for software, license and hardware. Potential future benefits are backup/disaster recovery services, spam e-mail filtering and internet content filtering.

Courtney McFadden asked how the quality of services compared between JoCo IT and AOS? Mr. Sanders responded that staff has met directly with them and looked at the level of services they are able to provide. They have the staffing and IT certifications to meet the city's needs. They would also work together with AOS during the transition. Quinn Bennion stated that he has talked with other agencies that are using JoCo IT and they have had positive experiences. He added this would not be a long-term agreement and if it didn't work out for the City, they could terminate the agreement and move back to private sector provided services.

Terrence Gallagher asked if this would present any opportunity for savings with our services to Mission Hills. Chief Jordan responded Mission Hills already pays for a portion of the technology costs and he does not anticipate any additional savings.

Jori Nelson confirmed that there would not be any gap between services.

Phone Services

Current phone services are being provided by AT&T at an annual cost of approximately \$35,000 for local, long distance services and a T1 phone connection to the Public Works facility. Staff recommends collaborating with the County to explore options with possible preferential pricing with a vendor or utilize the County as a "service provider" for phone services.

Ruth Hopkins asked how "Google" fit into this scenario. Quinn Bennion responded that he has made inquiries with Google and the changes will not be accommodated with their

system. Per the city's agreement with Google the city gets two line drops. Ruth Hopkins expressed her dissatisfaction with Google's response to the City.

Jori Nelson asked when the City last bid out phone services. Mr. Sanders responded not for several years. The city had an automatic renewing agreement and will be looking at other options.

Internet Access

Current internet access is being provided by Windstream Communications at an annual cost of \$15,000. Staff would like to explore options of utilizing an internet connection through Johnson County or other vendors.

Jori Nelson asked if the city has considered bundled services and when these services were last bid. Mr. Sanders responded these services were bid three years ago and noted the commercial requirements and dedicated line requirement makes bundling difficult.

Fiber Optic Connection

The current connection between City Hall and Public Works is a limited wireless connection and subject to performance issues based on weather and explained the difficulties that currently exist. The current connection speed is 2 - 8 megabytes with the connection used for shared financial software, e-mail and internet.

Staff would like to connect City Hall and Public Works via a city-owned fiber optic connection. Mr. Sanders noted that \$40,000 is currently budgeted in the Equipment Reserve Fund for this fiber connection project. It may be possible to join with other agencies for assistance in development costs. Interest has been expressed by Johnson County Library and Johnson County.

Brooke Morehead asked about possible joint venture with the Shawnee Mission School District. The city has been told that the school district wants to run a standalone network and has not been open to joint ventures with other agencies. Mrs. Morehead suggested that position may have changed with the new Superintendent and suggested the city contact them.

Courtney McFadden asked what the benefit would be for the County. Nic Sanders responded that it is the long-term goal of the County to have all of its agencies connected. Mr. Bennion briefly reviewed the plans of the County.

Ted Odell stated he felt it was worthwhile investigating and expressed disappointment that Google would not be part of the solution. Mr. Bennion replied staff will ask them again.

Nic Sanders noted as stated by Mr. Bennion no formal action is being requested but the staff would like direction on whether to pursue the following options and if so, specific information will be present at the noted City Council meetings.

- 1) Work with JoCo It on an Interlocal Agreement for information technology consulting services (May 19)
- 2) Explore options for phone and internet service which may include further collaboration with Johnson County (2014)
- 3) Publish RFP for fiber optic installation between City Hall and Public Works (June 16)

Ms Wassmer expressed support for #1 and #2. Mrs. McFadden felt an RFP process was good and that #1 was great. Mr. Gallagher stated he supports all three and noted that many of his clients are taking similar action. Mr. Wang confirm that publishing an RFP did not commit the City to further action. Mrs. Morehead felt good information could be gathered through the RFP process.

Dan Runion asked if there would be a termination cost for separating from AOS. Mr. Sanders replied 30 day written notice is required and they bill on services provided.

Brooke Morehead moved the City Council direct staff to pursue all three items requested. The motion was seconded by Laura Wassmer and passed unanimously.

2015 Budget Overview and Significant Budget Considerations

Finance Director Lisa Santa Maria stated that staff anticipates a balanced 2015 budget with the current level of services and current mill levy. However, she noted any additions will require an offsetting revenue or a reduction in another service. Staff have prepared a listing of possible significant budget considerations based on council discussions over the past year. No additional items were received from the council. Any action on these items needs to be taken early in the budget process and therefore asked for Council direction on the following items:

A-1 Tree Trimming Services

The 2015 budget contains \$125,000 for tree trimming services. This allows for a five year rotation throughout the city. Laura Wassmer provided history on the tree trimming program for the new council members. Ms Wassmer stated she did not feel the comments from the budget simulator represent a very small portion of city residents and are not statistically valid and thus should be considered as information only and not used in budget discussion.

Jori Nelson confirmed that this line item is separate from funding for the Emerald Ash Bore issue and that it included streets on residential streets. Ms. Nelson agreed with Ms Wassmer's comments regarding the validity of the comments on the budget simulator.

Keith Bredehoeft reviewed the operation of the program which trims trees on residential right-of-ways for low limbs over sidewalks and dead limbs on the street side of the trees which represent a potential liability to the City for falling and damaging property or injury to individuals.

Eric Mikkelson expressed concern that residents who don't maintain their trees are being rewarded by the City trimming them. Ted Odell supports the program and noted it is not a complete trimming of trees that would be done by a hired arborist.

The Council directed staff to include the proposed \$125,000 in the 2015 budget for Tree Trimming Services.

A-4 Traffic Enforcement on Residential Streets

Concerns have been made periodically regarding traffic enforcement on residential streets. Possible options to address this are to hire two additional traffic officers at a cost of \$162,000 or to increase the use of speed deterrent devices such as digital speed limit signs at a cost of \$24,000 for three additional devices.

Eric Mikkelson noted the success of the former traffic calming program and suggested the city consider bringing this program back. There were several options presented in the traffic calming toolbox and there was a high level of citizen involvement in the process. It achieved results in his neighborhood. Ruth Hopkins stated the program was very effective in its early stages. However, she feels there are too many speed bumps and that they simply move the problem to another neighborhood.

Terrence Gallagher asked Chief Jordan for his recommendation. Chief stated the Police Department is not recommending an increase in traffic officers. The department is currently addressing all complaint areas. He is a proponent in exploring options and noted the impact of school zones.

The Council directed staff to not include any additional funds in the 2015 budget for increased traffic enforcement on residential streets.

Quinn Bennion noted that several items are left to be discussed and suggested that the Council Committee recess and continue its meeting after the conclusion of the city council meeting.

RECESS

Andrew Wang moved the Council Committee of the Whole be recessed until the completion of the City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Eric Mikkelson and passed unanimously.

RECONVENE

Council President Ashley Weaver reconvened the Council Committee of the Whole meeting at 10:24 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Laura Wassmer moved to adjourn the Council Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion was seconded by Brooke Morehead and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Ashley Weaver
Council President