

CAPITAL COMMITTEE MEETING

July 7, 2021

11:00 a.m.

In adherence to COVID 19 protocols, the meeting was held via Google Meets. The visual and phone links were provided in the required notifications postings.

Members Present – Chairman Paul Payne, Rich Bradley, Judy Armstrong, LaTaunia Kenner, Nancy Cross, Ald. Tom Oldenburg, Tom Shepard

Others Present - Edward Bess, Michelle Robinson, members of the public and press

Chairman Payne called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. to address Community Needs/Requests submitted by departments. He discussed that with recent receipt of ARPA funds the City has an opportunity to address many capital needs and would like to begin process of reviewing and vetting capital needs inventory to identify capital improvement priorities for these funds as well as any capital funds that may become available (e.g. surplus revenue, bond issue, etc.) He stated that similar to bond issue effort of a number of years ago this process would include bi-weekly meetings at which departments could present as well as the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee. He then turned it over to Rich Bradley to make the presentation.

Mr. Bradley presented the Capital Needs Summary compiled by BPS with requests also submitted by City departments. The summary consisted of the list of capital needs by department and categorized by Critical, Needed, and Desirable. During the presentation, Mr. Bradley focused on the “critical needs” of the departments. The total amount of “critical needs” is \$148,297,382. According to Bradley, Critical Need assumes a project that is essential to continued operations, eliminates a public safety risk or is a project for which grant funding is available (often an 80/20 match) and the available funds could be forfeited for lack of a local match.

Streets – Mr. Bradley briefly reviewed list of street projects, including various streetscapes, an identified \$14M of arterial street paving, \$4.2M for completion of LED street light conversion and \$2M for the City’s continued plans at implementing the ADA Transition Plan to avoid Federal Justice Department issued mandates.

Bridges – There are a total of bridges within City limits. 18 bridges are deficient. Mr. Bradley clarified that this means these bridges are eligible for Federal reimbursement, it does

not mean that they are structurally unsound. 14 bridges need to be rebuilt. The Compton Ave Bridge repairs are underway with full replacement to begin in 2024. The Lindell Bridge is scheduled for construction to begin in 2025.

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry – The list of projects under the Parks category included such items as repairs to park buildings and rec center roofs, pool renovations, repairs to Forest park greenhouse, etc. Items classified as critical totaled \$35.3M. Most of the Park projects were submitted by the Parks Department which will be invited to discuss at a later meeting.

Fire Department – The Firehouses need roofs, updated plumbing and HVAC. The last renovations on the firehouses were in the mid-1990s.

Chris Amos, Equipment Services Manager, discussed the need to replace pumper trucks that were refurbished 13 years ago and are currently 22 years old. One of the biggest issues facing the department is the need for ambulances. The department prefers ambulance trucks versus vans because the trucks allow for the transport of more than one patient. He stated that, in reference to a question posed by Nancy Cross, a 2009 study showed 92% of transports were for 1 patient and 8% were multiple patients.

Police Department – The most critical needs are the repair/replacement of the elevators at headquarters at 20th and Olive, replacing the HVAC for the radio tower at the Old Headquarters, and to stabilize the stone falling off of the Academy building on the Spruce side.

Mr. Amos gave a brief presentation on the purchase of vehicles. He noted that over time the annual purchases through the operating budget have not kept up with the needs and the cost of catching up would total \$6.8 million.

Corrections & Other Public Safety – Upgrades to critical systems at the City Justice Center for a total of \$19 million will be complete within 18 months. Of this amount \$7M was allocated in the current fiscal year leaving a need of \$12M.

Mr. Bradley suggested that the items requested by the Sheriff's Department be put in the critical needs category because of their increase in policing.

The Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Building is another critical needs project. The facility will consolidate all Police, Fire, and EMS 911 call services and dispatching into a single location. If work begins now, it could be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2024.

Other Municipal Buildings – Mr. Bradley briefly discussed needs of other municipal buildings including City Hall, 1520 Market and the courthouses. He cited the urgency of stabilizing the exterior stone on the Civil Courts building as an example of a critical project. Critical needs in this category totaled \$15.8M.

City Vehicles (Non Police/Fire) - Mr. Amos discussed vehicle needs of other City departments. He noted that the City had been making some progress in recent years (e.g. Refuse trucks, Fire vehicles) Critical needs for this category totaled \$6.7M.

Mr. Bradley ended the presentation and turned the meeting over to Mr. Payne. Mr. Payne cited intent to schedule biweekly committee meetings over the next couple months to hear from departments as well as to begin process of forming the Citizens' Advisory Committee for additional guidance and input into making capital recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.