



Council questions and staff responses for items on September 22, 2022 City Council Meeting

5.1. Presentation proclaiming October 5th as World Teachers' Day.

Sponsors: Tanya Smith

Question: I noticed CSISD was mentioned specifically, but we also have a number of private schools in the area, has there been outreach to them to invite them to be part of this? Are there a few extra copies to share with ILT, KOR, Aggieland Country School, etc.?

Response: The Mayor requested Public Communications to reach out to CSISD, as well other schools. We can make extra copies for the other schools. The mayor requested this proclamation and modified the language from what we originally received as shown below. City staff is reaching out to the other schools in the area and inviting them to attend.

Instead of saying, "CSISD teachers", the proclamation was changed to "CSISD and all other area teachers."

8.2. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on a resolution approving the City's investment policy, reviewing, and recording changes to such policy and strategy, approving a collateral policy, and designating investment officers for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, stating that the City Council has reviewed and approved the City's investment policy, broker-dealer list, and investment strategy.

Sponsors: Michael DeHaven

Question: On page 104 of the packet, or page 14 of this specific item, the brokers and banks are listed. Why are there so few local options? Only 1 out of 5 qualified brokers, 0 of 4 investment pools, and 1 of 2 depository banks list College Station as their home base.

Response: The qualified brokers/dealers/advisors are selected from individual firms the city has prior relationships with or firms who have asked to be considered for the list. There are no brokerage firms located in College Station and most firms operate out of large metropolitan areas as they are national financial brokerages.

Government funds investment brokerage is not a standard offering from local banks. Local Government Investment Pools are overseen by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts and managed by large financial firms who are located in large metroplexes in Texas. There are no investment pools located in College Station. Our depository banks are selected through banking RFPs. JP Morgan is the administrator of our Procurement Card program which we participate through in a Texas consortium.

8.5. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on approving a five year master services agreement for utility billing software and services with Origin Utility, Inc. not to exceed \$2,273,185.09.

Sponsors: Mary Ellen Leonard

Question: What will this change from the customer side? The look of the monthly bill? Does a customer currently on Auto pay have to do anything to remain on auto pay? Under this plan, does the city continue to outsource any other aspects of the utility billing process, for instance, are we still paying a different company to manage credit card payments? Staff to read water meters? Page 546 and page 549 both state that water smart meters remain under consideration. What does that mean specifically? Where do those considerations stand at the moment? I would like to highlight that on page 536 it states that by install date, this service will have a Spanish option available to residents.

Response: This is an internal system needed to run the department. At this time, slight modifications to cstx.gov related to connects and disconnects will change to streamline that process. There are no planned changes to the monthly bill a customer would see. This is a “back of the house” management system. We will continue utilizing our payment portal and merchant provider for credit card payments. This is a billing and collection management system and not an operational system. The outsourcing contract to read water meters will not be impacted. When selecting a new back-end system, we wanted to make sure that the software has the flexibility to integrate with smart water meters in the future if the cost becomes beneficial and Water Services decides to implement. The cost benefit analysis done when the AMI was considered is the cost of implementing smart water meters outweighed the benefits and the water side would not continue forward until the costs decreased. In terms of the Spanish option, this is the requirements document that we used to evaluate systems. We wanted to have a toggle translate option on the connect / disconnect on cstx.gov and we were asking vendors if they can provide that option.

9.1. Public Hearing, presentation, discussion, and possible action approving an ordinance vacating and abandoning a 0.087 acre portion of a 15-foot Public Utility Easement, said portion lying due east of the terminus of Biomedical Way, of the Traditions Subdivision Phase 23 according to the easement agreement recorded in Volume 13417, Page 155, of the Official Records of Brazos County, Texas.

Sponsors: Anthony Armstrong

Question: When the city originally acquired this easement, did we pay for it? If so, how much did we pay for the easement? Who is covering the cost of removing the waterline?

Response: We did not pay for the easement. The easement was surveyed and processed by the developer. The city does pay filing fees for the easement as well as the abandonment. We paid \$78 dollars to file the easement in 2015 and the cost to file the abandonment will be around the same. The removal of the waterline is being covered by the developer.

