

## MANAGERS REPORT



**DATE**      October 6, 2022  
**TO:**        Mayor Benage and City Council  
**FROM:**    Ty Lasher, City Manager  
**RE:**        October 11, 2022 Workshop Agenda

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### **45<sup>th</sup> Street Engineering:**

We know 45<sup>th</sup> street from Oliver to Woodlawn is in poor condition and in fact needs replaced. Engineering design will take approximately 2 years from approving the service contract to having the project ready to bid through KDOT. The advantages of getting design started is that it sets us up to be able to receive any open funds. It also gives us a better position when applying for grants since we have already invested in this project. This project is included in the current TIP but is not funded. There is a strong possibility that it will get funded in the next TIP, but that would delay construction until the 2025/2026-time frame. The other concern is the cost – since the cost is so high, it means that 45<sup>th</sup> would pretty much be the only project able to be funded during that cycle. The other option is utilizing Advanced Construction, or AC. With AC, the city would front the entire cost of the project and get paid back over a period of time, as scheduled in the TIP. Just because the city offers to do AC, does not guarantee that the project will get funded. It still will go through the same selection process as any other project but using AC will give WAMPO and the selection committee some flexibility as to how to break the project up into funding years and allow other projects to be funded as well. If the governing body is committed to a rebuild of 45<sup>th</sup> from Oliver to Woodlawn, an engineering firm needs to be hired to start the work. Our estimate is a cost of \$725,000 for engineering and can be paid for utilizing options outlined in previous workshops.

### **Central Park Pool:**

The Central Park pool was originally built to be a neighborhood pool for Central Park. At that time, Central Park consisted of the current Central Park development as well as Elk Creek. Since the city has been responsible for the debt and the HOA does not have the dues to fund such a pool, the

city has run it as a municipal pool. It typically breaks even but expenses do not include water costs or rec staff time managing and maintaining the pool. The pool was built in 2005 at a cost of \$790,000. The annual debt service is \$41,000 per year and will be paid off in 2030.

The pool sits in a location with a high-water table that has caused issues in the past. There are some concerns with a pool liner and water seeping up from the ground. Brian will be at them meeting to explain the issues and discuss options.

### **Fireworks Ordinance:**

Prior to 2009, fireworks were not allowed to be sold or detonated in Bel Aire. After much discussion amongst the Governing Body and input from citizens, fireworks ordinance 485 was approved. Said ordinance allowed fireworks to be sold for one week prior to July 4<sup>th</sup>, only 4 sales permits were allowed which had to be affiliated with a non-profit and fireworks could only be detonated on July 4<sup>th</sup> between specific hours. In 2015, the ordinance was amended to allow public displays as well as remove the requirement for non-profit affiliation. This was done as wholesale fireworks was purchasing a building along Woodlawn to sell fireworks from that location. The revised ordinance allowed for fireworks to be sold out of a building that meets zoning, fire and building codes and for organizations wishing to obtain a firework permit be given priority if they have held permits in the past. Being associated with a non-profit was removed. The Bel Aire Lions Club expressed concern earlier this year as they receive a substantial donation from a fireworks company for having a tent in Bel Aire. Any fireworks company could choose not the work with a nonprofit and still receive a Bel Aire permit. Jaci and I discussed options that would aid local nonprofits while also allowing a fireworks company that has invested in buying a building. The proposed language Jaci is proposing addresses both.

### **Council Wards:**

While the Governing Body was discussing term limits and mayoral term, council wards came up. As Bel Aire continues to grow, there was a question regarding adequate representation from the different areas of town. Currently, the Mayor and all five council seats are elected at large. There could be an instance where a majority of the governing body live in one neighborhood. Council wards require representation from different areas based on population. In 1998, the Governing Body exempted Bel Aire from the ward system. The charter ordinance can be repealed thereby bringing back the ward system. Here are a few items to consider:

- There could be an instance where a majority of council members live in a neighborhood or block.
- Would these “neighbors” seek more improvements or services for their neighborhood than the rest of the city?
- Will it be difficult getting people to run from specific wards?
- Would ward members request equal money invested in their wards?
- By nature, the older neighborhoods with aging streets will receive more of street budget. Will ward members from new areas request new parks or improvements, walking paths and other amenities equal the investment in other wards?
- Has there been a problem with at large council members not addressing the need of the entire community?
- Are citizens calling for a ward system?
- Why did the Governing Body in 1998 charter out?