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MEMO

TO: Chairperson Davis and Committee Members
 FROM: Andrew Beyer, P.E.
 DATE: April 24, 2024
 RE: Review and take possible action: Town Square/S. Water Street Event Site Security

Review and take possible action: Town Square/S. Water Street Event Site Security

Background:

This topic has indirectly come before the Public Safety & Welfare Committee previously. In August and November of 2023 agenda items were presented that pertained to the closing of S. Water Street between W. Main and Emmet Streets. In August, the Committee directed the Engineering Division to get more information about the cost and feasibility of installing a swing gate-arm on S. Water Street and to bring the information back to the Committee in the fall. Engineering brought back a couple of options of swing-arm gates with preliminary cost estimates for each style. The Committee voted unanimously to authorize Engineering to purchase and install the swing gates at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, preferring the rectangular over the triangular swing-gate arm. See attached the minutes of the August 2nd and November 2nd, 2023, Public Safety & Welfare Committee meetings.

To date the gates have not found a funding source, so have not been purchased. Recently, staff have discussed the long-term safety of the Town Square attendees and resolved that whereas the upfront cost is greater, so is the level of protection and versatility if the City were to purchase portable barriers. The thought process was that the portable barriers could be used for farmer markets, night markets, parades, street closures and other community events where safety is of the utmost importance. These barriers weigh in at 700 lbs. and can be moved by one individual with a jackstand system. These barriers come with their own trailer for transportation and storage. There is also a gate feature that would allow vendors access to the site but keep out any other cars/trucks. Please see the attached photos. This system was rented and used at the Town Square grand opening. The cost for eight (8) barriers, gate system, and trailer is \$125,000. Since multiple departments/divisions could benefit from the barrier/gate system, they would budget for the purchase of this system in the 2025 budget. Departments/divisions interested in this are Police, Streets and Solid Waste Division, and Park, Recreation & Forestry Department. A cursory search was performed to see if there were any grants available to cover some or all of the purchase price, but none have been found.

In the meantime, the current system of using the Jersey barriers would continue for street closures on S. Water Street between Main and Emmet Streets.

Enclosed:

- August and November 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Barrier System Photos