

Q/A for December 19, 2023

Agenda #	Title	Requestor Responder
I.12	Approve the award of Option Year Two to Contract 19-258, Landscape Design and Planting, to Christy Webber and Company for an amount not to exceed \$283,100 and for a two-year term	
Q.	The tall plants (elephant ears) in the center of many of the planters are tubers which residents have expressed interest in salvaging. (They have to be stored inside over the winter, unlike hostas which are fine outside.) How much effort would it take for the contractor to put them aside, similar to what they do with the tulip bulbs in the spring?	<i>Longenbaugh</i>
A.	We received a request to do this late this year and were not able to coordinate the pick-up with the contractor due to time constraints. Staff will work with the contractor to see if we can develop a pick-up for the tall plants, similar to what we do with the tulips, in the coming year.	<i>Dublinski</i>

I.17	Approve award of Bid 23-242, Electrical Installation, Maintenance, Modifications, and Repairs, to Volt Electric, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$110,550, and for a one-year term	
Q.	What is a "plan holder" and what is a "no bid form"? Can you please give a high level explanation of these terms and how they fit into the bid process?	<i>Longenbaugh</i>
A.	The City uses DemandStar as it's on-line procurement tool. This allows us to virtually communicate and compile procurement opportunities with vendors. A planholder is someone who has "downloaded" the paperwork necessary to review and submit a bid/proposal. However, a planholder does not always submit a proposal and when they don't, the City asks that they submit a form indicating WHY they choose not to submit. This form is called a "no bid form." We use it to understand the reason(s) a vendor chose to download the documentation, but not submit a proposal/bid.	<i>Mayer</i>

I.23	Approve the award of Change Order #1 to Contract 21-355, Tollway Substation Reliability Upgrade, to Sargent & Lundy, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$902,000 and a total award of \$1,241,240 and for an additional 12 months	
Q.	What is a "34.5kV bus flashover"?	<i>Longenbaugh</i>
A.	Insulators are utilized by the Utility to separate energized equipment from deenergized or grounded equipment. From time to time, due to age, contamination or wildlife these insulators will break down and an arc flash will occur, usually causing a power outage. In the case of Tollway Substation, which is near the expressway, salt contamination caused the flashover of several insulators. This resulted in a power outage along the I-88 corridor that extended into Downtown Naperville. As there are many insulators in a substation, identifying which exact insulator failed can be time consuming and requires significant labor. Similarly, replacement can be equally or more time consuming depending on the location of the failed insulator.	<i>Groth</i>

I.35	Receive the update on the Renewable Energy Program (Item 1 of 2)	
Q.	While I understand prior year usage of these rebate categories are down, how do the proposed reduction in commercial and residential solar rebates compare to offerings from com-ed? Are there other incentives available for these solar projects that make up for us reducing the rebates?	<i>Wehrli</i>
A.	The incentive rates for solar, as proposed (\$250/kW), are slightly lower than ComEd's incentives (\$300/kW). The reduction will allow the Utility, through its voluntary Renewable Energy Program (REP), to fund more grants across more energy efficiency programs. Beginning on April 1, 2024, as part of net metering changes authorized by the Council in December of 2022, Naperville Electric Utility customers will benefit from no installation caps on solar arrays and will receive avoided cost reimbursement for production over their yearly consumption. Reimbursement for overproduction, on a yearly basis, is not offered by ComEd. Naperville customers remain eligible for any federal tax credits as well as the state SREC program. The Utility and NEST continue to explore ways to increase solar array installation for commercial customers including public private partnerships with IMEA.	<i>Groth</i>

I.40	Conduct the first reading of the ordinance repealing and replacing Title 2 (Boards and Commissions) of the Naperville Municipal Code	
Q.	2-1-9:1 conflicts with board and commission handbook on attendance policy / excused absences	Wehrli
A.	This code section addresses allowable reasons under OMA for remote participation which includes travel for work. The Board and Commission Guide outlines the attendance policy which states that members must attend at least 75% of meetings. Excused absences are defined as a personal or family illness, death in the family, maternity or paternity leave, or family emergency. The Board and Commission Guide is currently silent on remote participation.	Schatz