

CITY OF BLUE ASH
Interoffice Memo - City Manager's Office

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Department Directors
SUBJECT: Agenda Items for the March 24 Council Meeting
DATE: March 22, 2011
COPIES: Department Directors, Press, Clerk of Council, Solicitor

The following offers a brief description of the topics included on the March 24 Council agenda:

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2011-16 - Amending Chapter 131 of the Blue Ash Code of Ordinances

Ordinance No. 2011-16 amends the pay plan to address not only the upcoming retirement of the current Golf Professional on July 1, 2011, but also the new staffing structure recommended for implementation in conjunction with the operation of the new clubhouse/banquet facility at the course.

Over the past several weeks, the Recreation team has been working on a new job description for this position (attached to the ordinance) as well as looking at various ways to structure the position given the new facility currently under construction. With assistance from a local PGA consultant (which was provided at no cost to the City), the team reviewed the operating structure at several comparable courses in the region, but has also examined other potential methods, such as the possibility of utilizing a golf management company or a having a contractual staffing arrangement. It is the team's recommendation that a full-time Golf Pro be hired at a rate comparable with other compensation packages in the region (lower than is currently in place for the Golf Pro). In addition, this position would no longer be considered a division head level, as it is recommended that the new Golf Pro report to the Recreation Division (although the new Golf Pro would have supervisory functions over part-time supporting staff).

The team's recommendations include a new (lower) salary range for the new position (with a financial incentive to recruit large outings), as well as recommended structural adjustments in terms of how the pro shop is operated. The goal is to have a new person on board sometime in June to allow time to work with the current Pro in the transition.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Parks & Recreation Director.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2011-17 - Awarding bid for electric golf carts

Bids were recently solicited for the purchase of 20 electric golf carts, with one bid received (from Lake Erie Golf Cars) opened on Thursday, March 3, 2011.

Ordinance No. 2011-17 recommends that Lake Erie Golf Cars be awarded the bid for the purchase of 20 new electric golf carts for a net amount, including trade-ins, of \$57,140. The breakdown of their bid is below:

20 new 2010 electric carts @ \$3,817each	\$76,340
Less: credit/trade-in of 16 Year 2006 carts @ \$1,000 each.....	(\$16,000)
Less credit/trade-in of 4 Year 2004 carts @ \$800 each.....	<u>(\$3,200)</u>
Net Total.....	\$57,140

The most recent purchase of new golf carts took place in 2010, and before then in early 2007 (the City delayed purchase for two years prior to 2010). The price bid for the 2011 carts is slightly higher than last year, yet is still competitive.

Questions regarding this ordinance should be directed to the Parks & Recreation Director.

9.c.1. Ordinance No. 2011-18 - Authorizing purchase of replacement video cameras for police cruisers from the State's cooperative bidding program

In 2001, the Blue Ash Police Department launched a police cruiser based Mobile Video Recording (MVR) program in order to provide accurate audio-visual recordings for court proceedings and to defend officers against false accusations and unjustified litigation. The technology of these MVR systems has since evolved, and the present equipment used by the department in its MVR program is plagued with numerous failures that make the achievement of the goals of our program difficult at best. Members of Police Administration believe that the problems are the result of reliance on older technology.

The Department would like to transition the MVR program to utilize solid state, in-car video recording systems that would serve to eliminate moving parts in the recorder, such as VHS recording heads, DVD recording discs, or swappable hard-drives – all which can be fragile in a mobile environment. The solid state equipment of this project utilizes a digital SD card for storage of recordings. Also included in the project is an adequate “backend” system that is capable of supporting the archival of our recordings to comply with our records retention policy.

Those directly participating and benefiting from a reliable MVR program include the Police Department, the users/officers, our insurance pool (MVRMA), the prosecutors, and the court system. As MVR recordings are public records in many cases, the public benefits from accurate and timely releases under the Ohio Public Records laws.

The vendor selected for this project is Insight Public Sector, a vendor participating in the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing program. A committee of officers from the Police Department examined other vendors/suppliers of MVR equipment; however, this vendor currently provides the MVR systems used by the Ohio State Highway Patrol. It was selected because it offers a solid state format.

In order to outfit five of our 14 marked police cruisers this year, and to install the “backend” server, the cost will be an amount not to exceed \$55,000, which includes both the server and camera kits. These are included in the Cooperative Program under contract numbers 534177 (camera kits) and 534242 (server).

Please direct questions regarding this purchase to Captain Jim Schaffer at 745-8459 or via E-mail at jschaffer@blueash.com.