

CITY OF BLUE ASH

Interoffice Memo – City Manager's Office

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Department Directors
SUBJECT: Agenda Items for the January 12th Council Meeting
DATE: January 10, 2012
COPIES: Department Directors, Press, Clerk of Council, Solicitor

This memo offers a brief description of the topics included on the January 12th Council agenda.

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2012-1 – authorizing payment in 2012 for various public utility services

Ordinance No. 2012-1 addresses payment to various companies for purchases expected in 2012 for utility-type expenses required for normal operations of City-owned facilities, properties, and activities for the provision of municipal services to citizens. Included is authorization to purchase electricity, natural gas, external phone services, internal phone services, domestic water, and public sewer. Although this ordinance represents the expenditure of routine and budgeted items, the Administration had not presented a similar ordinance until 2008 because of the monopolistic nature of most of these markets. An ordinance is being presented at this time due to the changing marketplace and expanded options available to utility consumers. With aggregate 2012 expenditures to each of these vendors likely to exceed the ordinance threshold of \$25,000, the Administration is seeking formal Council approval to assure compliance with potential audit requirements.

Sections I through III respectively of the ordinance authorize aggregate 2012 payments to Duke Energy/Duke Energy Retail Sales for electricity and natural gas not to exceed \$882,000; to Greater Cincinnati Water Works for water and sanitary sewer services for an amount not to exceed \$188,000; and to Cincinnati Bell Telephone for external telephone, network connectivity lines and fiber, optic cables, and data connection services for an amount not to exceed \$121,000.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.a.2. Ordinance No. 2012-2 – authorizing a multi-year contract for professional governmental relations services

Ordinance No. 2012-2 represents the Administration's recommendation to continue a contract with The Colwell Group for professional governmental relations services in 2012 through 2014.

Colwell has been assisting the City for the past several years in its efforts to follow through with projects related to the passage of Issue 15 in November 2006, as well as other important matters. The ordinance authorizes the same monthly fee of \$3,500 for 2012 to assist with the City of Cincinnati, members of the Ohio General Assembly, members of United States Congress and other state and federal elected and appointed offices for the purpose of advocating on issues pertaining to the Blue Ash Airport and the future 130 acre park. For calendar years 2013 and 2014, the ordinance authorizes a monthly retainer fee of \$1,500 to monitor and report on legislative and political developments/issues at the state and federal level, as well as monitor and identify various federal and state grant opportunities.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2012-3 – amending professional legal service fees

The Solicitor has requested legislation to authorize a change in the hourly legal fee schedule beginning in 2012. Ordinance No. 2012-3 seeks authorization to increase the hourly amounts

by \$10 effective January 1 – resulting in the following hourly rates: \$220 per hour for attorney work, and \$160 per hour for paralegal employees.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Solicitor.

9.a.4. Resolution No. 2012-1 – appointing member to the Charter Revision Committee

As directed by Mayor Weber, Resolution No. 2012-1 appoints Michael Rapp of Fox Hollow Drive to fill the existing vacancy on the Charter Revision Committee and to provide an opportunity to other citizens of Blue Ash to serve on various committees. Resolution No. 2012-1 appoints Mr. Rapp to fill that term which will expire in July 2016.

Please direct questions regarding this resolution to the Mayor

9.b.1. Resolution No. 2012-2 – appointing member to the Recreation Board

As directed by Mayor Weber, Resolution No. 2012-2 appoints Joseph Hoelker of Sycamore Trace Court to fill the existing vacancy on the Recreation Board and to provide an opportunity to other citizens of Blue Ash to serve on various committees. Resolution No. 2012-2 appoints Mr. Hoelker to fill that term, which will expire in July 2016.

Please direct questions regarding this resolution to the Mayor

9.c.1. Ordinance No. 2012-4 – authorizing payment for traffic signal parts, repair services, and upgrades throughout 2012

Ordinance No. 2012-4 authorizes payment for routine purchase of parts, maintenance, upgrades, and repair of traffic signals provided throughout 2012 with Capital Electric Line Builders for an amount not to exceed \$55,000. The City has a favorable long-term relationship with this vendor, formerly known as Wager-Smith, for these types of services, and these items were included within the 2012 Final Budget. The items include routine maintenance and parts, as well as the upgrades (to LED lights) made throughout the year and the addition of uninterruptable power backup systems (UPS) at main intersections.

Please address questions regarding this ordinance to the Public Works Director.