



**City Council Questions and Answers for  
Thursday, May 07, 2015**

These questions and answers are related to the  
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on  
Thursday, May 07, 2015 at Austin City Hall  
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX



**Mayor Steve Adler**  
**Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, District 9**  
**Council Member Ora Houston, District 1**  
**Council Member Delia Garza, District 2**  
**Council Member Sabino  Pio  Renteria, District 3**  
**Council Member Gregorio Casar, District 4**  
**Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5**  
**Council Member Don Zimmerman, District 6**  
**Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7**  
**Council Member Ellen Troxclair, District 8**  
**Council Member Sheri Gallo, District 10**

*The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.*

## **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

1. Agenda Item # 8 - Approve a resolution concerning re-naming the Austin Tennis Center, located at 7800 Johnny Morris Road (District 1).
  - a. QUESTION: 1) What is the timeline for the new naming policy to be presented to the City Council for approval? 2) What are the costs to the City associated with renaming a park facility or parkland? COUNCIL MEMBER GALLO'S OFFICE
  - b. ANSWER: 1) Staff is currently working on a proposed code amendment and plans to present this code amendment to the Parks and Recreation Board in July, and the Open Space Environment and Sustainability Committee in August. Our goal ultimate goal is to have a code amendment for Council's consideration by September. 2) Cost is \$1800 per park ID sign.
2. Agenda Item # 10 - Approve a resolution waiving the requirements of Resolution No. 980312-25; and authorize negotiation and execution of a park concession service agreement with the Austin Parks Foundation for food and beverage concession service at 1006 Congress Avenue.
  - a. QUESTION: 1) Is there a percentage of the revenue that goes back to the Austin Parks Foundation? 2) Can any of the revenue be diverted to other parks since so many park improvement have occurred at the Old Bakery and Emporium? COUNCIL MEMBER TROXCLAIR'S OFFICE
  - b. ANSWER: 1) No. All revenue goes back to park site (Old Bakery and Emporium) for park/site improvements. 2) No. The agreement is specific to the Old Bakery and Emporium and the grounds adjacent to the facility.
3. Agenda Item # 13 - Approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of \$573,246 in grant funding from the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority.
  - a. QUESTION: 1) Considering the City's history with the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, has the City match of 25% been a consistent part of this agreement? How does the rate of the match compare to

previous fiscal years? Has the city determined that this match (\$191,600) will be budgeted in the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year budget? 2) Please provide more information regarding how the Neighborhood Liaison positions function within the department. How are the Neighborhood Liaison positions placed? Are the positions city-wide or will particular neighborhoods be served by these liaisons? If so, how are the neighborhoods chosen? COUNCIL MEMBER CASAR'S OFFICE

b. ANSWER: See attachment

4. Agenda Item # 14 - Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of an 18-month contract with ORANGEBOY, INC. to provide customer research and data assessment services for the Austin Public Library in an amount not to exceed \$97,500, with four 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$45,000 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$277,500.

a. QUESTION: 1) Should this not be a part of the budget discussion rather than an ad hoc purchase? 2) Should this item still be put out for RFP? Why or why not? 3) Was this cost not included in the original CIP for the library? If not, why? 4) What are the total costs associated with the new central library? From building (original expense plus cost overruns) to staffing to software to inventory and all budgetary line items associated with the new library? COUNCIL MEMBER GALLO'S OFFICE

b. ANSWER: 1) This is a purchase for which we currently have budgeted funds. Securing this contract fulfills an operational need for the Austin Public Library. 2) OrangeBoy provides a proprietary software platform which makes this purchase a sole source. 3) This purchase is not related to a Capital Improvement Program. 4) The OrangeBoy purchase is not related to the New Central Library project. The OrangeBoy contract will provide research and data assessment services for all library locations. The \$120M New Central Library project is on time and within budget. The operating costs for the New Central Library are included in the five year Forecast presented to Council on April 22, 2015. The Library will be scheduling a briefing for Council on the entire New Central Library project.

5. Agenda Item # 15 - Authorize award and execution of a 36-month supply contract with COMMUNITY TRUCKING LLC to provide dry rock rip rap in an amount not to exceed \$438,315, with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$146,105 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$876,630.

a. QUESTION: Do we have a current vendor providing these services? What proposed projects and areas will be served with this contract? COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA'S OFFICE

b. ANSWER: Yes, however the current contract will expire on 5/19/15. The Public Works Street and Bridge Division uses the material on an emergency

basis and the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) has a continuous list of repair projects that require this material. The Street & Bridge Division uses the material for emergency bridge and/or road stabilization such as bridge abutments and road shoulders washed out during flooding events. The lack of access to this material during emergency events could lead to additional loss of infrastructure and extended road closures. WPD uses the material to repair and stabilize degraded creeks and channel banks. If WPD did not perform the repairs/stabilizations of these water ways, the flow rate of storm water would be compromised and slowed down. The slower flow rate will likely cause a backup during a rain event, the result of which would be that rainwater would flow out of its eroded embankments, flooding the surrounding area and compromising the safety of property and lives.

6. Agenda Item # 17 - Authorize award, negotiation and execution of a 12-month service contract with HP ENTERPRISE SERVICES, LLC, or with another qualified respondent to Request for Proposals No. SMW0122, to provide consulting services for the relocation of the City's primary data center in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, with one 12-month extension option in an amount not to exceed \$900,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,300,000.
  - a. QUESTION: 1) Do we have a CTO (Chief Technology Officer) type position in the COA that could handle this and other broad technology planning items that have come before Council? 2) Is there citywide Technology Plan by each department? 3) Should this not be discussed during the budget process? 4) This will also have a companion purchase requirement when we actually relocate the data center post consult, that estimate is not included. What is that cost estimate? COUNCIL MEMBER GALLO'S OFFICE
  - b. ANSWER: 1) The City's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for technology decisions across the City, and utilizes the Information Technology (IT) Governance structure for planning and prioritizations of citywide IT investments. The IT governance process includes three bodies with members from across departments: the Chief Information Officer's Council (CIOC), the Department Director's Advisory Council (DDAC) and the IT Steering Committee. The CIOC works with the DDAC to prioritize and recommend IT projects (for IT Infrastructure, Citywide and Department Business Technology solutions) for funding each fiscal year to the IT Steering Committee. The IT Steering Committee makes the final recommendations to the City Manager about IT investments. The IT Steering committee is made up of executive members of the City Manager's office and the Financial Services Department. In FY2013-14, a Data Center Risk Assessment was conducted for the current data center; the assessment identified a number of vulnerabilities with the current data center, including its proximity to downtown Austin, its age, disrepair of the facility and the facility's inability to cope with adverse weather events. Thus, during the FY2014-15 IT Governance Process, the Steering Committee allocated funds for a data center relocation consultant, who recommended the center be moved, in alignment

with the reasons mentioned above. This year, funds to physically relocate the data center have been requested. The contract resulting from this RCA will provide an expert to safely guide the relocation project. 2) IT Strategy is coordinated through the IT Governance process citywide. The CIO Council has an IT Strategy and a work plan that address the City's IT needs as a whole. Because of the complex nature of certain city departments, some have their own IT divisions and often they have their own strategic plan, which are then coordinated citywide via IT Governance. 3) The design of the data center relocation was included in the FY2015 IT Governance Process and was vetted and approved through the FY2014-15 budget process. The Communications and Technology Management Department is now working on the execution stage of relocating the data center. Our data center is 23 years old and was designed to last 25 years. At 25 years, the City will be required to invest millions of dollars into the current facility or move to a new location. The benefit to moving the data center is cost savings as there are many suitable co-location options around Austin. This is a highly specialized industry that is abundant in Austin, which will allow the City to utilize a vendor for this need. 4) The preliminary cost estimate is \$4.5 million for moving the data center. This estimate will be refined when the design and plan for the data center relocation is finalized. We are relying on our data center consultant to prepare these numbers.

- c. QUESTION: Please provide examples of some of the City's critical daily business functions and operations that rely on the data center. Is there an estimated amount of how much financial revenue could potentially be lost as result of failure risk(s) to data system? COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA'S OFFICE
- d. ANSWER: The City has multiple data centers. The City's primary data Center is in need of relocation. It services enterprise systems and general fund departments. The following systems and applications would be impacted:
- Email
  - AIMS financial system
  - Banner payroll system
  - Internet Wire transfers to fund payroll
  - AMANDA permitting system,
  - Telephone circuits for the old phone systems (300 phones)
  - Accounts Payable check printing
  - 311, code, traffic light prioritization
  - Internet
  - Maximo Asset Management system
  - Austin Resource Recovery's dispatch system
  - Municipal Court's Judicial Enforcement Management system.
- Austin Energy, ABIA, and the Convention Center are not greatly affected by potential issues with the primary data center. Combined Transportation and Emergency Communications Center (CTECC) would be able to function internally to the location but their connections outside of CTECC would be very limited. A secondary backup data center would have very limited ability to support critical City systems. To date, the City has not done a financial impact analysis in the event of the loss of the central data center.
7. Agenda Item # 18 - Authorize award and execution of a 12-month supply and service contract with MIDWEST TAPE, LLC, or the other qualified bidder for

Invitation for Bid-Best Value No. EAD0609, to provide DVD and BLU-Ray acquisitions, cataloging, and processing for the Austin Public Library Department in an amount not to exceed \$626,000, with five 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$626,000 for each extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,756,000.

- a. QUESTION: Please provide a breakdown of how much of the materials will be for adults and youth, including how much in either category will be educational. COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA'S OFFICE
  - b. ANSWER: Budget by educational material is not tracked at this time. The materials numbers based on this year's budgeted amounts are as follows: Adult = \$270,000 and Youth = \$154,000. The total amount equals \$424,000.
8. Agenda Item # 19 - Approve an ordinance accepting \$102,300 in grant funds from the AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION TEXAS CHAPTER; and amending the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Austin Transportation Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20140908-001) to appropriate \$102,300 for the implementation of a pilot project to improve accessibility to healthcare, nutritious food, and physical activity in the communities of North Central Austin.
- a. QUESTION: How will the Austin Transportation Dept. engage and involve existing neighborhood groups and contact teams in the area? Specifically: the North Lamar – Georgian Acres Combined Contact Team, the North Austin Civic Association, the Windsor Hills and Heritage Hills Neighborhood associations, the Georgian Manor Resident Council and Georgian Acres Neighborhood Association, the Stonegate Neighborhood Association, ARNL (Association de Residents Norte Lamar), school PTAs and other community groups in the grant area. COUNCIL MEMBER CASAR'S OFFICE
  - b. ANSWER: The Austin Transportation Department and other project partners, including the Office of Sustainability, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services, the Parks and Recreation Department and have developed an outreach plan that calls for reaching out to neighborhood groups, contact teams, schools, PTA's, non-profit service organizations, faith and business groups in the grant area to inform them of the pilot project and request time to present the project in more depth, invite participation, feedback and involvement. The project seeks to build on existing community assets to improve access to healthy food and physical activity by engaging the community in a neighborhood food planning effort and active transportation encouragement program. As part of the neighborhood food planning effort, the Office of Sustainability will engage stakeholders in a planning process to better understand and strengthen the food system in the area. As part of the active transportation encouragement program, the Austin Transportation Department will seek out opportunities to share transportation resources such as transit maps, pedestrian safety education and other support for using alternative transportation to meet daily mobility needs. To date, ATD and

other participating City Departments have successfully met with more than 15 neighborhood associations, churches, schools, recreational centers and non-profit organizations in the grant area. Community engagement will be a sustained and ongoing effort throughout the grant period to reach as many stakeholders as possible.

9. Agenda Item # 32 - Set a public hearing and consider an ordinance regarding ATMOS Energy Corporation's proposal to increase customers' gas rates.  
(Suggested date and time May 21, 2015; 4:00 p.m. at City Hall; 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX)
  - a. QUESTION: Texas Gas Service provides funding for Energy Efficiency programs and new furnaces and water heaters for low income customers. Austin Energy coordinates with Texas Gas when weatherizing homes with natural gas. My recollection is that Texas Gas has a \$100,000 budget this year. Does ATMOS have any similar programs available for its customers living in Austin? MAYOR PRO TEM TOVO'S OFFICE
  - b. ANSWER: See attachment

**END OF REPORT - ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

 *The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*

 *For assistance, please call 512-974-2210 or TTY users route through 711.*



**Council Question and Answer**

<b>Related To</b>	Item #13	<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 7, 2015
-------------------	----------	---------------------	-------------

**Additional Answer Information**

**QUESTION:** 1) Considering the City’s history with the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, has the City match of 25% been a consistent part of this agreement? How does the rate of the match compare to previous fiscal years? Has the city determined that this match (\$191,600) will be budgeted in the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year budget? 2) Please provide more information regarding how the Neighborhood Liaison positions function within the department. How are the Neighborhood Liaison positions placed? Are the positions city-wide or will particular neighborhoods be served by these liaisons? If so, how are the neighborhoods chosen? COUNCIL MEMBER CASAR'S OFFICE

**ANSWER:** 1) The minimum Match requirement to apply for the grant is 20% of the Total Award. Due to the competitiveness of the grant, the higher percentage we Match, the more likely we are to retain the grant in future years.

Below is the history of the grant (Award Amount, Match Amount, Match Percentage) for the past five years:

<u>Award Year</u>	<u>Total Award</u>	<u>ABTPA Amount</u>	<u>COA Match Amount</u>	<u>Match % of Total</u>
FY2015	\$ 556,715	\$ 406,147	\$ 150,568	27%
FY2014	\$ 507,684	\$ 406,147	\$ 101,537	20%
FY2013	\$ 507,684	\$ 406,147	\$ 101,537	20%
FY2012	\$ 519,451	\$ 406,147	\$ 113,304	22%
FY2011	\$ 450,123	\$ 360,098	\$ 90,025	20%

The Match is met by recording the following (these positions are all currently budgeted in APD’s Operating budget):

- 1% of the ATIP Lieutenant’s Base Salary
- 1% of the ATIP Sergeant’s Base Salary
- 24% of 7 of the ATIP Detective’s Base Salaries

2) The title of Neighborhood Liaison, at least for the Auto Theft Neighborhood Liaison position, is somewhat of a misnomer. The grant funded position of the Neighborhood Liaison within the Auto Theft Unit serves the entire population of the City of Austin. In a sense, the city is our neighborhood. The Auto Theft Unit is a city-wide unit; that is, one unit handles ALL auto theft cases no matter where they occur in the city. The Auto Theft Neighborhood Liaison coordinates the dissemination of auto theft information from sources within and outside of the Austin Police Department to the public. He/She actively reaches out to civic groups, neighborhood groups, private businesses, public agencies and media outlets to inform the public on how to reduce the rates of auto theft and auto burglary.

As for the selection of the specific neighborhoods that are selected for outreaches, a combination of utilizing internal data (crime trends) and available resources drive as to where outreaches occur. There are several civic and business organizations that request our NL to attend their events. The goal for the NL is educate the general public on preventive crime measures regarding Auto Theft/Burglary of vehicles. The NL offers a free VIN Etching that is very popular during these events.



### Council Question and Answer

<b>Related To</b>	Item #32	<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 7, 2015
-------------------	----------	---------------------	-------------

#### Additional Answer Information

**QUESTION:** Texas Gas Service provides funding for Energy Efficiency programs and new furnaces and water heaters for low income customers. Austin Energy coordinates with Texas Gas when weatherizing homes with natural gas. My recollection is that Texas Gas has a \$100,000 budget this year. Does ATMOS have any similar programs available for its customers living in Austin? MAYOR PRO TEM TOVO'S OFFICE

**ANSWER:** Yes, Atmos Energy offers home weatherization assistance to qualified customers in the Mid-TX Division, which includes the City of Austin, to help reduce energy consumption and lower energy utility bills.

Their program is implemented through participating energy assistance agencies and provides up to \$1,500 in free energy savings materials and services (depending on location and availability) such as:

- Gas Piping - Inside Home Repair (Limit: \$500)
- Customer Owned Gas Yard Line Repair (Limit: \$500)
- Gas Water Heater Replacement
- Gas Heater Replacement
- Insulation - Attic
- Insulation - Wall
- Gas Water Heater Blanket
- Duct Sealing
- Caulking, Weatherstripping, Duct Sealing, Wall Outlet Covers, Aerators

#### **Eligibility**

Current Atmos Energy customers who meet the following criteria are eligible to participate.

- **Low Income** - Low-income customers can request assistance thru all agencies that distribute funds for the Atmos Energy "Share the Warmth" Program. These agencies will qualify customers to ensure they are eligible to receive assistance. Agencies that allocate assistance funds denote a customer as "Low Income", a status that lasts for one year.
- **Senior Citizen** - The primary account holder can request eligibility through all agencies that distribute funds for the Atmos Energy "Sharing the Warmth" Program. Any Atmos Energy customer that is or turns 65 years old in that year and meets income guidelines that qualifies as a low-income household for state or federal assistance programs is eligible.

Customers can call Atmos Energy at 1-888-286-6700 for more information.

Atmos Energy has expressed interest in coordinating with Austin Energy but those efforts are not yet underway.

In addition, Atmos offers rebates for energy-efficient gas appliances.