

Capital Budget Public Hearing
Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Virtual Hearing

Attending: J. Cepeda-Freytiz, D. Reed, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, C. Daubert, M. Ventura, O. Chris Miller, L. Kelleher, J. Kelly, J. Stoudt, D. Anspach – in person and W. Butler, M. Smith, M. Gombar, F. Lachat, M. Oppenheimer, Reading Eagle - virtually

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz called the hearing to order at approximately 5:05 pm. She announced that the purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comment on the proposed 2023 Capital budget.

I. Presentation by the Administration

Mr. Kelly introduced Mr. Anspach, Capital Project Manager, who presented a PowerPoint on past, current and future projects.

Some of the completed projects include the replacement of City owned sidewalks, improvement of fire stations, parks and playgrounds. Mr. Anspach noted that major renovations are required at the Pagoda, including reconsidering about how the building is used and configured, prior to its reopening. He stated that meetings continue about the reuse and improvement of the City Park Greenhouse.

Mr. Kelly displayed a time lapsed recording of the construction of the 9th and Marion Fire House. Chief Stoudt and Mr. Anspach explained that the delay in receipt of furniture could push the opening of the 9th and Marion Fire Station past December 2022.

Some of the planned 2023 projects are the improvement of Egelman's park and dam, improvement of parks and playgrounds and fire stations, improvements to the HVAC systems at City Hall, the Public Works building and the Fire Museum and tennis court resurfacing. He explained the 100 step process for all capital projects.

In response to questions from Councilors, Mr. Anspach stated that the splash pad at City Park is under design. He explained that the South of Penn group assisted in organizing the public meeting about the Reading Iron playground project. He confirmed that the kiddie pool will be added to the Schlegel Park pool project. He noted that the reuse of the Hillside playground and pool area is under consideration.

Council President Cepeda Freytiz thanked Mr. Anspach for his work to make all these projects move forward.

II. Public Comment (No More than 3 minutes per speaker)

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz opened the floor for public comment. No one was registered to speak and no written comment was received. There were no citizens in the audience and the public comment period was closed.

III. Adjourn

Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to adjourn the hearing at approximately 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk