

Elsen, Nikki

From: Caitlyn Konze <cittytrail@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 7:12 PM
To: Elsen, Nikki
Subject: Capital Improvement Project Budget (7/2 meeting)

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To the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I would like to publicly comment on the proposal to acquire property for the purpose of a combined police and fire station. After having to cut over \$4 million from the city budget, and a mere month after the city let go at least 16 city employees, I question the wisdom of moving forward with a \$36 million dollar improvement project at this time. I understand that we cannot simply stop running the city during this pandemic, but I would urge more caution in this moment. I propose delaying the passing of this motion for one year. The pandemic is nowhere near over. Oktoberfest, another large revenue source for the city, has just been cancelled. Local, state, and universities around the country have put their capital improvement projects on hold while they wrestle with the same million dollar shortfalls that the city is contending with right now. Life must go on in the face of COVID-19, but unless the city is prepared to lay off still more employees I do not think this particular project should be considered a high priority at this time. Especially if the projections for this pandemic lasting not months but years ends up true.

As a citizen, I would also like to see a comparison of projected costs between renovating existing buildings (whether city owned or not) and building a brand new complex. I understand that both the police and fire departments have needs that ought to be addressed very soon. But I feel strongly that in the midst of a global pandemic and under the shadow of the threat of another depression/recession, now is not the time to be green lighting this project. And if the municipality does find enough money to fund this project, then I hope they can also find enough to hire back at least some of the people that so recently lost their jobs in the name of savings.

Signed,
a concerned citizen,

~Caitlyn Konze