

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

October 23, 2023 Council Meeting

1. W. Main Street Infrastructure Improvement Project bidding update: At noon on October 19, 2023, the city conducted our 5<sup>th</sup> bidding for the W. Main St. Infrastructure Improvement Project. I'm pleased to announce that at the bid opening, we received two bids: One from S.E.T., Inc. for \$8,993,754.56 and one from Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Co., Inc. for \$8,838,772.97. Both bids are within the 20% threshold of the Engineer's estimate of probable cost (\$7,500,000) with Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Co. being the lower of the two bids. At present, we're proceeding with the required due diligence to determine the viability of this bid. Unfortunately, there's not enough time to accomplish this task for tonight's meeting. However, and as previously discussed, if it's determined later this week that we have a good bid, I look to make a Recommendation on that bid at a Special Meeting next Monday, October 30, 2023.
2. Special Meeting for Monday, October 30, 2023 at 6 PM:
  - a. Assuming all goes well with the lowest and best bid received on October 19 for the W. Main St. Project, I will be presenting Council with a Recommendation to accept a bid and seek permission to enter into an agreement with the contractor.
  - b. If a bid is presented and accepted, I would also present to Council a Recommendation to accept a revised Proposal from The Mannik Smith Group (MSG) for Construction Inspection and Construction Administrative Services at the cost of \$644,000. The city previously selected MSG through a competitive process back in Spring, 2022.
3. Stormwater Master Plan RFP update: After advertising our RFP for the preparation of our Stormwater Master Plan twice this month, I decided to extend the deadline by a week from Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. With some (though limited) interest being shown towards the end of last week, I believed an extension might help us receive additional proposals, thus giving us more competitive and strategic options to move forward with.
4. Event Planner RFP update: At this time and after various discussions, we've zeroed in on one particular candidate to provide the city Event Planning services specific to the city's Community Center. We're currently in discussions over contractual language and anticipate concluding this process in the very near future.
5. Appalachian Community Grant: We've been working diligently with Environmental Design Group (EDG) on our proposed Downtown Streetscape project as well as with the procured designer for a proposed Downtown Storefront Façade Upgrade opportunity in the Central Business District. With EDG, still a work in progress, various downtown upgrades include expansion of the brick and stamped concrete sidewalks, new pavement, trees, murals, wayfinding signage, site furnishings, traffic control, landscaping, etc. On downtown storefront façade upgrades, here, with very limited time to work with and seeking public/private partnerships, we collected approximately 20 proposals from building owners in the CBD seeking grants up to \$30k (w/ 20% equity injection) to upgrade the exterior of their downtown buildings. We will be submitting these proposals this week for consideration of funding.