

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: May 29, 2014

1. CSX Derailment

The City received the following response from Bryan M. Rhode, Regional Vice President, State Government Affairs for CSX concerning derailments which have occurred on the CSX tracks over the past few years:

“The derailment on 5/1/2014 occurred at MP 3.8 and is being attributed to a culvert getting blocked by debris in heavy rain resulting in the washing away of a section of road bed just west of the culvert. The weight of the locomotives traversing this unsupported area caused the third locomotive in the consist as well as 11 loads of coal to derail.

As to the other two incidents mentioned in your letter:

#1. 6/6/2005 – FRA cause code E67C – CSX had a single empty PEPX 49 (coal car) derail at MP 2.1 on the main line. The cause was found to be tread build up on wheel.

#2. 2/26/2009 – FRA cause code T207 – CSX had one locomotive and 15 loads of coal derailed at MP 3.6 as a result of a broken rail. It was determined there was a detail fracture from shelling or head checking.

We are comfortable these three incidents over the last nine years are not indicative of a systemic problem in any one area. Each of these incidents had distinct and separate causes.

For CSX, safety is always our number one priority, both for our employees and for the communities in which we operate. CSX regularly collaborates with federal, state and local agencies to ensure the safe operation of our trains. Through that collaboration, as well as customer coordination, employee training and substantial investment in infrastructure and new safety technologies, CSX seeks to continuously innovate to offer the safest, most secure movements of products which are vital to U.S. competitiveness, jobs and manufacturing.”

Staff has requested a meeting with CSX concerning keeping culverts clear and in addressing problems with beavers causing water backup in the vicinity of the CSX tracks. Since the backup of water was a contributing factor in the May 1st accident, the City wants to do everything we can to keep CSX focused on this issue.

2. Amber Ridge ZHE Hearing

On Thursday, May 22nd the Prince George's County Zoning Hearing Examiner (ZHE) conducted a hearing on Zoning Map Amendment A-10031 for Amber Ridge. The developer's request is to rezone the 19.03-acre property from the C-S-C (Commercial Shopping Center) zone to the M-X-T (Mixed Use Transportation Oriented) zone. On May 5th, City Council voted to recommend approval of the rezoning with two traffic-related conditions. The County Planning Board and staff recommend approval with one condition and 12 considerations. Mayor Pro Tem Truth, Ms. Kelly Pierce of the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, and four residents attended the ZHE hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Truth and City staff addressed Hearing Examiner Joyce Nichols, explaining the rationale for the City's recommended conditions and comments. Ms. Pierce and one City resident spoke in favor of the rezoning. Ms. Pierce was queried as to whether the Chamber position letter reflected only the input of the Board of Directors or the entire membership of the Chamber. Ms. Pierce indicated that the entire membership meets once a year at the annual meeting in June. Resident Russ Ideo spoke in general support of the request, but heavily emphasized the need for the traffic half-signal at the site entrance on US Route 301 to avoid traffic issues on Pointer Ridge Drive and Pointer Ridge Place. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Examiner stated the record would be left open for receipt of the relevant Master Plan pages from the developer's consultant and a letter from the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce to be written after their June 12, 2014 annual meeting.

3. Chevrolet Truck Acquisition

The adopted FY15 Budget allocates \$35,000 for the replacement of truck #306, a 2001 Chevrolet Pickup Truck, in the Parks and Grounds Division of Community Services. Staff reviewed bids for this item and found a current Montgomery County bid MCOTL Contract #1022192, which will be honored by Criswell Automotive in Gaithersburg, MD for the purchase of a Chevrolet Silverado ¾-ton for \$33,702.10. The City will not accept delivery of the vehicle prior to July 1, 2014. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Criswell Automotive for a total amount of \$33,702.10.

4. John Deere 320D Skid Steer Loader

The adopted FY15 Budget allocates \$25,000 for the replacement of tractor #327, a 2000 John Deere Skid Steer Loader, in the Parks and Grounds Division of Community Services. Staff reviewed bids for this item and found a current Montgomery County Contract #9367000254AS, which will be honored by Jesco in Baltimore, MD for the purchase of a John Deere 320D Skid Steer Loader for \$24,222. The City will not accept delivery of the equipment prior to July 1, 2014. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Jesco for a total amount of \$24,222.

5. Linear Park (Enfield Chase) Playground

The adopted FY15 Budget allocates \$44,800 for the replacement of the playground at Linear Park. Staff has identified a current US Communities Contract #269-2010-183, which will be honored by Cunningham Recreation in Queenstown, MD for the purchase and installation of a playground and safety surfacing for a total of \$44,284.12.

The City will not accept delivery of the playground prior to July 1, 2014. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Cunningham Recreation for a total amount of \$44,284.12. The City applied for and was awarded a grant through Maryland Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space Community Parks and Playgrounds Program and will be compensated for the total cost of the playground once it is completed.

6. Allen Pond Bleachers

The adopted FY15 Budget allocates \$30,000 for the replacement of bleachers at Allen Pond Park. Staff reviewed bids for this item and found a current US Communities Contract #269-2010-183, which will be honored by Cunningham Recreation in Queenstown, MD for the purchase and installation of three (3) sets of ADA bleachers at Murtagh 1 and Murtagh 2 fields for a total of \$28,944.36. The City will not accept delivery of the bleachers prior to July 1, 2014. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Cunningham Recreation for a total amount of \$28,994.36.

7. Ford Fusion Hybrid Acquisition

The adopted FY15 Budget allocates \$26,700 for the replacement of vehicle #16, a 2003 Ford Taurus, in the Housing Inspection and Code Compliance Division of Community Services. Staff reviewed bids for this item and found a current Montgomery County bid contract #9367000281BD, which will be honored by Lindsay Ford LLC in Wheaton, MD for the purchase of a Ford Fusion S Hybrid for \$24,825.54. The City will not accept delivery of the vehicle prior to July 1, 2014. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Lindsay Ford for a total amount of \$24,825.54.

8. Truck Acquisition for Parks and Recreation

The adopted FY15 Budget allocates \$25,900 for the replacement of truck #17, a 2008 Ford Pickup Truck, in the Parks and Recreation Division of Community Services. Staff found a current Maryland State contract BPO #001-B4400405, which will be honored by Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. in Milford, DE for the purchase of a 2014 Ford F-150 pickup for \$24,198. The City will not accept delivery of the vehicle prior to July 1, 2014. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Hertrich Fleet Services for a total amount of \$24,198.

9. Pool Vehicle Replacement

The adopted FY15 Budget allocates \$20,200 for the replacement of van #8, a 2006 Dodge Caravan, in Community Services. Staff found a current State of Maryland bid

#001B4400368, Item #0006-07048-11C000 with Hertrich Fleet Services of Denton, MD for the purchase of a Dodge Grand Caravan for \$20,151. The City will not accept delivery of the vehicle prior to July 1, 2014. As provided by Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Hertrich Fleet Services for a total amount of \$20,151.