

Monday, February 21, 2011
Responses to City Council Member Questions

Question from Council Member: Mary Kerwin

Date clarification needed~

Special Meeting of the Troy City Council, at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 28, 2011, located at Automation Alley.

Automation Alley has received funding through the SmartZone Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA). In the past two years the LDFA paid \$25,000 for a foundation membership in Automation Alley. The original LDFA Development Plan is in need of an update to clarify how the captured funding will be allocated. Automation Alley is located in the SmartZone and has received funding for the building and operations.

Should City Council support continued allocation of dollars to Automation Alley, an amended Development Plan that would set forth the allocation of the LDFA funds would be presented at a future City Council meeting. Ken Rodgers, Executive Director of Automation Alley, would appreciate the opportunity to demonstrate the value of Automation Alley as an economic development tool for the City of Troy and our region. City Council will also be able to tour the facility. In addition, Mr. Rogers will discuss funding needs of Automation Alley which could be funded with SmartZone LDFA funds.

The proposed special meeting is March 28, 2011 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Automation Alley located at 2676 Bellingham Drive, Troy, MI 48083, the Board Room. Dinner will be available for City Council and staff prior to the special meeting.

Corrected agenda item and resolution will be placed on the table.

Questions from Council Member: Robin Beltramini

Minutes from special session on Feb. 7—I believe that Mr. Savage did not ask about an income tax as much as he questioned the extent of options considered to balance the budget by City Council, including an income tax.

Minutes amended as follows: ~~Suggested cutting unnecessary spending and possible income tax.~~ Asked whether City Management considered all options before presenting the budget and before recommending the closure of the Library; discussed unnecessary spending.

Amended minutes will be set on the table.

H-1—Please distribute the attached memo. Also, as a point of information, what is necessary for a PA 345 millage?

A response regarding a PA 345 millage will be provided at a later time.

I-5—John, I'd like to talk to you about this. Please correct the spelling of Ken Rogers' name and solidify the date—resolution says Feb. 28 and memo uses both Feb. 28 and March 28.

Corrected agenda item and resolution will be placed on the table.

K2a—What is our lost revenue going to be by sending the dog licensing function to the county? Must people go to the county to register their dogs? Will the fee change?

The approximate annual revenue for dog licensing is \$30,000.

**Oakland County residents may apply at:
Participating Veterinarian
Mail to Shelter
On-line**

Will the fee change?

	Oakland County Annual Fees:	City of Troy Annual Fees:
Spayed / Neutered	\$7.50	\$6.00
Senior Citizen Price	\$6.75	N/A
Male/Female	\$15.00	\$12.00
Senior Citizen Price	\$13.50	N/A
Penalty	\$30.00	\$15.00

To: City Council

cc: John Szerlag, City Manager and Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney

From: Robin Beltramini, Council Member

Subject: Public Engagement Efforts—Response to H-1, Feb. 21, 2011 agenda item

What do we want to know, answers to any or all of these questions:

- Acceptable level of service in each of the core services?
- Whether or not the citizens consider the library a core service?
- If today's tax levy is the maximum our citizens will pay?
 - If not, what *specifically* are citizens willing to pay more for?
 - If yes, do we want input on allocation? How much? What kind?

What are we willing to invest to find out?

- Staff time?
 - Options run the gamut from little staff time to intensive staff time (annotated by **S**, **SS**, **SSS** in the list of choices)
- Facilitator time?
 - Includes not only "face time" with the public, but preparation time (annotated by **F**, **FF**, **FFF** in the list of choices)
- Council member time?
 - Includes preparation, face time and individual analysis, but not deliberation of the body (annotated by **C**, **CC**, **CCC** in the list of choices)
- Money?
 - Includes a rough estimate of cost for potential expertise and some supplies including IT, facilitator(s) (annotated by **\$**, **\$\$**, **\$\$\$** in the list of choices)

Potential Public Engagement Efforts:

Online: There choices in how to do this:

- Oakland County's Idea Center could be one way to go. **SS, C, \$**
- Another, more interactive, method would be to model Manor Texas's "Manor Labs" program which is the ultimate "suggestion box." **SS, C, \$**
- Short citizen surveys on Troy's Website, with the results kept in the public realm. **S, CC, \$**
- Bulletin Board style questions that include a single statement or question posted and available for input for a limited period of time (a few days each) **SS, C, \$**
- Focus Group style questions, no more than three, instead of, or in addition to, a survey per se—typically require professional drafting and monitoring **S, F, CC, \$\$**
- Some communities engage in community conversations. Typically, these are coordinated through an organization like E-Democracy.Org focus on a particular issue, have protocols for participation and are highly transparent **F, CC, \$\$\$**

Facilitated Face-to-Face Community Conversations: Some of the options here are:

- Large groups which start out together and break into small "table top" groups for discussions and report-outs **S, F, C, \$\$**
- Large groups that stay large, the "town hall" is one **F, SS or CC, \$**
- Small "study circle" groups that focus on a single issue or element and then become part of the whole solution **S, FF, C, \$\$**
- Small conversations that tackle general issues. **Either S, F, or C and \$**
- Morgan Hill CA created a "Meeting in a Box" initiative (with professional assistance) that moved from community group to community group to assess budget priorities after residents had expressed vehement opposition to service cuts and rejected a tax increase. Modeling this would be a "medium size" effort, but require intense participation of leadership and staff over a defined timeframe. **\$\$ plus Short-term SSS and CCC**
- Additionally, if we choose to make meaningful, collaborative public engagement part of our usual practice, the generalized group options could be a sustainable part of that. **Ongoing would be S, C, \$**

Simply Survey:

- Telephone surveys of randomly selected taxpayers could be used, and would be longer, potentially more in-depth than an online survey. **S, FF, C, \$\$**
- Surveys in tax or water bills could offer results over time, but will not help for this year's budget discussions. **S, C, \$**
- Deliberative Polling is a reliable method for our issues. (See my report from NLC Congress of Cities conference 2010) **FF, C, \$\$**