



CITY OF PALM DESERT
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: December 14, 2023
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk
Subject: City Council Meeting of December 14, 2023

Below you will find questions received from the Mayor or Councilmembers and answers provided by City staff regarding tonight's City Council meeting:

ITEM 13h: APPROVE CENTRAL INVENTORY OF SURPLUS LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF PALM DESERT AND SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE PALM DESERT REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND DIRECT THE REPORTING OF INFORMATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Q1: Should the 170-acre site north of Frank Sinatra be listed on the surplus list if a portion is to be used for the new regional park?

A1: The upcoming regional park will occupy a portion of the 170 acres. Following the identification of the park's location within the 170 acres, the remaining property will be made available for sale under the Surplus Land Act.

Q1: How long has the property at 45653 Portola been a vacant house?

A1: The City can confirm the house has been vacant since January 24, 2022. The City does not have details on the prior owner relative to their occupancy.

ITEM 13j: ADOPT RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 66000-66008 RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Q1: How many students were served at Hope Lutheran? Has the City determined if the children served are receiving any religious curriculum or secular childcare?

A1: Hope Lutheran is licensed to serve 60 students and all available spots are filled. Students also receive religious curriculum while in attendance.

ITEM 13x: APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO CONTRACT NO. C43220 WITH FLOCK SAFETY FOR PHASE 3 OF A FIXED LOCATION AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION (ALPR) SYSTEM

Q1: Has the City received a full summary of the agencies the Riverside County Sheriff has shared with? Has the City received full clarity on who owns the data collected from Automatic License Plate Readers? In addition to the three items presented, do we have an update on the total amounts of recovered property, arrests made related to ALPR, and the number of seizures of weapons and illicit substances?

A1: Yes, the City has received a full report of the ALPR data RCSD shares on the City's behalf. In the December report, staff confirmed that Palm Desert data is shared only with other California agencies as is allowed by state law. In November's data report, two federal agencies were shared with because of active investigations. They have since been removed. The City is the owner of the data and RCSD manages it on its behalf according to state law, RCSD policy, and the City's agreement with Flock Safety. Staff is routinely monitoring and reviewing this data to ensure full compliance with the recent California Attorney General opinion and statutory requirements. In the Weekly Administrative Report for this Friday, staff will be including the December data share report, which was also shared with the Public Safety Committee earlier this week.

The RCSD will need additional time to gather the requested statistical data related to recovered property, arrests, and seizures of weapons and illicit substances. This information will be provided in an upcoming Weekly Administrative Report.

ITEM 14b: EXTEND CONTRACT WITH YMCA FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE PALM DESERT AQUATIC CENTER FOR AN 18-MONTH TERM

Q1: What were the terms that were revised in the new contract?

A1: The entire scope of work (see Page 681) was revised from the previous contract. This is because some of the processes had been updated, job descriptions did not accurately reflect the work being done, and there was no accountability in terms of performance or reporting. I realize this is a very general answer, however the reality is that every aspect of the contract was changed or updated in some way.

ITEM 14c: AWARD CONTRACT NO. C44200B TO AMERICAN LANDSCAPE, INC., OF CANOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA, FOR THE GREENS/TEE BOX RENOVATION AND TURF REDUCTION AT DESERT WILLOW GOLF RESORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,083,396.75 (PROJECT NO. MLS00005)

Q1: If there was low interest, and low participation, does it make sense to only accept the bid of the applicant that followed up, or does it warrant putting out a new RFP?

A1: Given the specialty type of contractor required to complete golf course renovations, staff conducted a contractor pre-qualification process. Two contractors were qualified to bid the project, but one of them did not bid due to their upcoming work schedule next summer. The bid received was reviewed by our expert consultants and verified that it was within industry standard and budgets. If we were to re-qualify additional contractors and re-bid the project we would likely miss our summer construction schedule. Summer work is required to minimize impacts to golfer and revenues.

Q2: How do the watering needs of the MiniVerde compare to the turf in use? The document presented talks about the heat records of 2006.

A2: Watering needs are generally the same but if over seeding is eliminated then MiniVerde would likely use approximately 33% less water in season.

Q3: Does MiniVerde stand up to prolonged exposure to heat? The trial sites identified in their study from 2009 with ideal temperatures up to 35C (95F).

A3: All Bermuda grasses are considered warm-season grasses and thrive in the heat. MiniVerde is a mutated version of our current version of TifDwarf and is more tolerant of the heat than TifDwarf.

Q4: Is there any indication of the performance of exposure of 45C (113F) to 50C (122F)? Does MiniVerde change the types or frequency of pesticides used?

A4: We currently have minimal pesticide use on the greens and anticipate those levels to stay the same. No additional pesticides would be required that we're aware of. Eliminating over seeding would also help reduce the use of fertilizers and growth regulators in season.