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TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

CC: Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator  
Brett Lenart, Planning Manager  
Missy Stults, Sustainability & Innovations Director  
Mariah Walton, Deputy City Administrator

SUBJECT: August 7, 2025 Council Agenda Response Memo

DATE: July 31, 2025

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**CA-1 - Resolution to Approve Change Orders #1 and #2 to the Construction Contract with 21st Century Salvage Inc. for the Demolition of Four City Properties and Appropriate Funding (\$146,052.80 Increase; \$1,569,803.80 Total Contract) (8 Votes Required)**

**Question:** Will the proceeds from the sale of 415 W Washington be used to repay the General Fund for the total cost (original plus this additional) of demolishing the building? (Councilmember Disch)

**Response:** The proceeds from the sale, unless otherwise directed by Council, will go to the General Fund. We expect the amount will exceed the cost of the demolition.

**CA 6-13 – Resolutions Related to Bryant Neighborhood Decarbonization Work**

**Question:** Could staff provide a brief report on progress achieved and projected for the near future on the Bryant decarbonization project? (it is great to see all of these contracts). (Councilmember Disch)

**Response:** The Bryant Decarbonization project is moving forward in a multi-faceted and dynamic fashion. Multiple streams of funding are co-mixing to help move the project forward with multiple organizations taking on various elements of the work. As such, it makes the compilation of a simple overview of the work in Bryant a bit complicated. However, we've compiled the information below which highlights the major sources of

funding and associated work that our team is undertaking. Additional information on the project can be found in a somewhat outdated newsletter from January of 2025: [https://www.a2gov.org/media/zp5k4dku/a2zero\\_newsletter\\_january\\_2025.pdf](https://www.a2gov.org/media/zp5k4dku/a2zero_newsletter_january_2025.pdf).

Additionally, the team is working on some case study literature about how work, which we hope to have available in the coming months. For now, we hope this helps address the question:

- Roughly \$1,000,000 has been secured from the State of Michigan (through multiple funding streams) to complete energy efficiency and health and safety improvements in approximately 40 homes to-date, with more in queue (up to \$25,000/house in funding support available)
- The McKnight Foundation has provided funding to support Community Action Network staff in keeping public engagement centered in the work. This includes funding to support the hiring of our Community Engagement Specialist for the project
- \$3.1 million secured from the Michigan Public Service Commission to help 40-60 more homes make energy efficiency, electrification, energy storage, and renewable energy generation investments. This funding is what is supporting the contractors before council on the August 7<sup>th</sup> Council agenda
- A conditional \$10,000,000 U.S. Department of Energy Geothermal award was announced that would support up to 100 households with transitioning to a networked geothermal system
- \$5,000,000 was secured from the State to develop a test virtual power plant and possible microgrid in between 10-20 households in Bryant. This work is just beginning and contracting is expected to come to Council later in the fall. This work will be done through the City's SEU
- Collaboration with the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development has led to another 30 (ish) homes in the queue for free weatherization services. Some of these households will also receive funding from other grants awarded to project partners, meaning that these households are very likely to be the first to become carbon neutral through the project
- Work continues to transition the Bryant Community Center into a fully decarbonizing building and a living learning laboratory for the City. Geothermal was completed at the site and appliances are slowly being replaced.
- Evaluation services have been commissioned to ensure that the lived experience of residents remains centered in the work the project team is doing with residents. Project evaluation is focused on process evaluation, outcome evaluation, and summative evaluations.

Ongoing communication engagement continues with a resident advisory committee formed, at least bi-monthly events taking place in the neighborhood, and the continuation of having OSI and CAN staff operating regularly from the Bryant Community Center so residents can easily reach a project team member.

**CA-15 - Resolution to Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Kittali Weidner, LLC in the Amount of \$99,500.00 to Support the City's Circular Economy Action Planning (\$99,500.00)**

**Question:** Could the Citizen Engagement report (completed June 2025) be shared with Council? Or if it already has been shared, a reminder of where it can be found would be appreciated. (Councilmember Disch)

**Response:** Please find the report, which is available on our circular economy page: <https://www.a2gov.org/sustainability-innovations-home/sustainability-me/for-families-individuals/circular-economy/>.

**DC-1 - Resolution Regarding the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan**

**Regarding** DC1, my understanding is that the proposed contract amendment with Interface Studios reflects the additional work required to incorporate both City Council's requested changes from our last meeting and potential revisions expected from the Planning Commission's review of the second draft. Could staff please clarify what specific work is driving the need for the additional funds? (Councilmember Akmon)

**Response:** The need for additional funds is based on a few parallel factors. The timeline for plan adoption has increased, currently estimated at approximately 12 months beyond the original contract. Also, as resolutions from City Council provide direction to Planning Commission, it results in more significant policy changes that result in map modifications, reconsidering land use descriptions, and more substantial changes than the original intention to move through subsequent drafts with more narrow changes and refinement.

**DC-2 - Resolution to Adopt Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Use Policy**

**Question:** Please explain how the City would protect individuals against violations of this provision--"UAS recorded data will not be collected, disseminated or retained solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the U.S. Constitution or the Michigan Constitution"? How would violations be detected and how would the provision be enforced? (Councilmember Disch)

**Response:** The UAS policy requires all departments utilizing UAS to have an assigned Program Coordinator and requires all operators to formally document the reason for their flight. Program Coordinators will not permit an operator to utilize an UAS for the sole purpose of monitoring protected activities. Should someone feel that this is being violated, it would be handled in litigation and/or criminal process as all violations of law.

**Question:** If third-party storage is utilized for data/footage, what safeguards are implemented to guarantee it will not be released to federal authorities without a subpoena or used for AI training? (Councilmember Harrison)

**Response:** Third-party storage is not being utilized by any department. Data will be managed by city IT internally.