



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

CC: Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator
Nick Hutchinson, City Engineer
Brett Lenart, Planning Manager
Molly Maciejewski, Water Treatment Plant Manager
Jordan Roberts, Public Services Area Administrator
Mariah Walton, Deputy City Administrator

SUBJECT: July 21, 2025 Council Agenda Response Memo

DATE: July 17, 2025

CA-7: Resolution to Approve Braun Court Development Agreement, 313-327 Braun Court (CPC Recommendation: Approval 8 Yes, 0 No)

Question: This project is using the sustainability height exception for an 18' height increase over D2's permitted height of 60'. The sustainability height exception can be earned "when solar collector surface covers at least 60% of the building's footprint area and the electrical panels have capacity to solely power the site by electricity." Based on the description of this project, it looks like it proposes to go considerably beyond this requirement achieving LEED Silver certification and full electrification by means of geothermal heating/cooling and electric heat pumps. Could staff confirm that the project provides sustainability measures in excess of the ordinance requirements? (Councilmember Disch)

Response: This project meets requirements of the height exception. They have indicated that the project will include geothermal heating and cooling, and other sustainability features related to building materials, which are not a requirement of the bonus.

CA-13 - Resolution to Approve a Contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the Seventh Street Capital Preventative Maintenance Project

Question: Now that those SS4A funds are back in play, can you tell us how it fits into work on Seventh? (Councilmember Akmon)

Response: The 2025 resurfacing project on 7th Street is proceeding independently of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant and its associated quick-build safety improvements.

As part of the SS4A grant, City staff are currently working with TYLin to develop preliminary designs for pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements along 7th Street, from Washington to Scio Church. These designs cannot be finalized until the grant agreement has been fully executed by both the U.S. Department of Transportation and the City, and the remaining federal funds are obligated, as required under the grant terms. Once that process is complete, we will advance to final design, with construction anticipated in 2026, depending on federal contract timelines.

As part of the SS4A implementation, we plan to install a range of quick-build treatments along the corridor designed to support safer travel for all users. These include:

- Upgrading buffered bike lanes to protected bike lanes using vertical delineators;
- Pavement marking enhancements to increase visibility and safety; and
- Hardened centerline treatments at key intersections:
 - 7th & Pauline
 - 7th & Stadium
 - 7th & Madison
 - 7th & Liberty

Question: The Seventh Street Project will use federal funding from the Surface Transportation Program (STP).

- a. Can staff elaborate on how the City is granted federal funding through the Surface Transportation Program?
- b. Approximately how much has the City received in STP funding in recent years?
- c. Are there any restrictions that come with using STP funding?
(Councilmember Mallek)

Response:

- a. Can staff elaborate on how the City is granted federal funding through the Surface Transportation Program?

Response: STP Funds are federal funds that are distributed to local agencies through the regional Transportation Improvement Plans (TIP). Locally, the TIP is administered by the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). Every few years, the City submits project applications to WATS for the use of STP funds, and those are weighed against other projects in the WATS region before inclusion in the TIP.

- b. Approximately how much has the City received in STP funding in recent years?

Response: On average, the City receives approximately \$2.4M per year.

- c. Are there any restrictions that come with using STP funding?

Response: While STP funding is relatively flexible, the funds need to be used for transportation-related purposes on roads or corridors that are eligible for Federal aid. Without going into too much detail, Federal aid eligible roads are typically the highest volume roads in the City.

CA-17: Resolution to Approve a Construction Contract with American Process Group LLC in the amount of \$3,919,401.97 for the WTP Lime Residual Removal Contract No. 2 - Dredging and Hauling (RFP 25-18)

Question #1: Staff shares that the WTP generates approximately 18,000 tons of lime residual each year as a byproduct of the lime softening process. The residuals are dewatered on-site using filter presses and hauled away for disposal. During certain times the residuals are pumped directly to the lime residuals lagoon nearby. The lime residual removal volume included in the base bid of this resolution is 10,000 dry tons, which is roughly equivalent to 10 years of storage capacity.

- a. What is the approximate total capacity of the lime residuals lagoon?
- b. Approximately how many years of use did it take to reach near-capacity?
- c. Does staff envision a need for a longer-term solution to provide storage capacity or could ad hoc removal such as this (once per decade?) suffice? (Councilmember Mallek)

Response:

- a. What is the approximate total capacity of the lime residuals lagoon?
Response: Approximately 738,000 cubic yards, or 1,030,000 tons.
- b. Approximately how many years of use did it take to reach near-capacity?
Response: 70-90 years
- c. Does staff envision a need for a longer-term solution to provide storage capacity or could ad hoc removal such as this (once per decade?) suffice?
Response: Periodic removal such as this project should suffice. The ideal/expected frequency would be no greater than once/10 years but the actual amount of residuals removed in this phase will inform future planning.

Question #2: The Whereas clause for funding states: funding is available in the approved FY26 Water Supply System Capital Budget and will be available in future fiscal years throughout the life of the project, if so approved by Council.

- a. What proportion of this nearly \$4 million contract is currently available in the approved FY26 Water Supply System Capital Budget?

- b. Can staff elaborate on the meaning of funding “will be available in future fiscal years throughout the life of the project, if so approved by Council”?
- c. What future phases of this project, if any, are envisioned beyond this proposed resolution/contract and that approved under resolution R-25-194? (Councilmember Mallek)

Response:

- a. What proportion of this nearly \$4 million contract is currently available in the approved FY26 Water Supply System Capital Budget?
Response: \$3 million
- b. Can staff elaborate on the meaning of funding “will be available in future fiscal years throughout the life of the project, if so approved by Council”?
Response: This language refers to City Council's approval of the annual budget. The project includes funding in the financial plan for FY27. That fiscal year's budget still needs to be proposed to and approved by City Council.
- c. What future phases of this project, if any, are envisioned beyond this proposed resolution/contract and that approved under resolution R-25-194?
Response: It is anticipated that a project like this will be added to the capital improvements plan approximately every 10 years. The actual amount of residuals removed in this phase, along with the frequency that we must send residuals to the pond will determine the timeframe for future project needs.

An informational video has been created for anyone who would like to learn more about the project: <https://engage.a2gov.org/limeremoval>.