



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator

CC: Debra Buckson, Chief Human Relations & Labor Relations Officer  
Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator  
John Fournier, Deputy City Administrator  
Raymond Hess, Transportation Manager  
Nick Hutchinson, City Engineer  
Marti Praschan, CFO  
Colin Spencer, Purchasing Manager  
Brian Steglitz, Interim Public Services Area Administrator

SUBJECT: October 17, 2022 Council Agenda Responses

DATE: October 13, 2022

**CA-4 - Resolution to Approve Professional Services Agreements with Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc., AECOM Great Lakes, Inc. and WSP Michigan Inc. for As-needed Transportation Engineering Services (Estimated \$450,000.00 Annually)**

**Question:** What are the hourly rates, inclusive of benefits, for City employees in the comparable positions listed in the fee schedules? (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** The following table shows the hourly rates for the transportation team:

Position	Total
Transportation Manager	\$62.16
Transportation Engineer	\$57.91
Transportation Engineer	\$54.28
Transportation Engineer	\$37.59
Transportation Program Manager	\$53.86

**Question:** Has an analysis been conducted or is one planned that will examine the costs/benefits of our continued reliance on contracted professional services in Public Services to supplement the work of, perhaps, undersized City departments? (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** The Engineering Unit evaluates the use of on-call consultant contracts vs. increasing staff as part of the two-year budget cycle. The benefit of using consulting contracts is that they provide flexibility to ramp up and down capacity as the work load fluctuates. The metric for adding permanent staff is very high because we want to avoid having to lay off employees if the workload cannot support them.

**CA-5 – Resolution to Approve the Purchase of Real Property Located at 302 Mulholland Ave in Fee Title for \$108,300.00 Plus Costs Not to Exceed \$20,000.00 and to Appropriate Funding from the Stormwater Fund (\$128,300.00) (8 Votes Required)**

**Question:** Currently, I believe this property is being used to support an urban farm and artist residency program. Are any agreements in place or discussions underway to help facilitate the continuation of this innovative community project? (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** The City is aware the owner had been organizing community activities on this parcel, but he has moved out of the country and is no longer involved. The City has not committed to continuing the community activities because it is unclear whether and how the parcel would be included in future City utility improvements for the area.

**CA-14 – Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan / OptumRx for Pharmacy Benefit Management Services Effective January 1, 2023 (\$8,964,668)**

**Question:** Do the City's procurement policies currently allow for bids, such as the one submitted by BCBS, to consider (or at least daylight) the DEI activities/corporate political donations activities of a company? Blue Cross Blue Shield is the largest corporate donor in Michigan to the extremist state legislators backing voter suppression efforts (giving a total of \$836,900 since 2015, both directly and through party committees). Mayor Taylor [wrote a letter](#) this summer to the CEO of BCBSM calling out these political donations and calling on the corporation to align their political donations with their professed corporate values. (Councilmember Briggs)

**Response:** At present we do not have any mechanism to factor in political donations as an element of determining the suitability of a bid submittal. If City Council wanted to know that it would require devising a way to have the bidder self-report their contributions. Staff would not have the capacity to do any independent research on it. Additionally, the evaluation teams that are seated to review bids only bring subject matter expertise to the process. They wouldn't have the ability to look at a bidder's political contributions and

determine if they are problematic in some way. If they self-reported, and staff was only being asked to indicate to City Council if the contributions record is present there is likely a way to do that. Assigning a point value based upon a political contribution is beyond the ability of staff to perform. The City Attorney's Office has provided additional advice regarding this matter.