

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
MINUTES**

October 22, 2012

Mayor Vierra called the October 22, 2012 Council Study Session to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL Council Members Durossette, Ingwerson, Kline, Lane, Mayor Vierra

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Parks Division Operations Review.

Staff discussed the difficulties they are experiencing maintaining the City's parks with the current staffing levels. Staff presented Council with four options to consider:

Option 1

Continue with current service levels and labor ready staffing. See attached matrix to review the current service levels. Total Cost \$714,184

Option 2

Currently, there is one vacancy in each position. Of the three job duties, the Maintenance Worker I/II title has the most flexible job description. This option would upgrade the Maintenance Worker Aide to Maintenance Worker resulting in a total of four Maintenance Worker positions. We would still need the services of at least two Labor Ready positions. Also, we would need an increase in the operations budget by \$178,166 to perform annual fertilization, increase levels of service to all the parks and remove trash and litter more frequently from all the facilities. Total staffing for this option would be eight positions. Total Cost \$911,910

Option 3

Fill the three unfilled positions as Maintenance Workers, hire two additional full-time Maintenance Workers, and hire a full-time supervisor to manage the parks division and contracts. Also increase the operations budget by \$100,000 to achieve the desired level of service. Total staffing for this option would be nine positions. Total Cost \$981,656

Option 4

Privatize the Parks Division. Modesto has privatized their parks maintenance operations and has appeared to be successful in providing a desired level of service while minimizing the cost. If desired, city staff would put together a request for bids and publicize and bid the project. With this, we may have one or more contracts to get the best pricing and maintain the desired level of service as shown in the attached matrix. Total Cost \$714,646

COUNCIL DIRECTION

After reviewing staff's report, Council directed staff look into Option 4 presented; privatizing the Parks Division. Put together a request for bids, publicize and bid the project. Itemize each task (mowing, tree maintenance, etc.). Be sure that it states in the bid that we are not obligated to accept any of the bids. Council also discussed the possibility of choosing two vendors to create some competition between the two and help insure quality of service. Be creative.

2. Purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. (SCBAs)

Staff reported that currently, the stock of Self Contained breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) being utilized by the City of Ceres Fire Department do not meet the standards set forth in NFPA 1981 "Open Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Service" that were established in the 2002 edition. By 2014, 48% (56 of 117) of the current stock of SCBA air cylinders will meet their service life and must be removed from service with additional cylinders expiring in the following years.

Through a regional approach, a grant for fiscal year 2012/2013 has been applied for from the Department of Homeland Security for the replacement purchase of SCBAs for 14 fire departments within Stanislaus County. However, it will not be known if this grant application is successful until February of 2013. If this countywide grant is awarded, there will be a 20% match requirement, which will be determined based on the amount awarded by the grant and selection of a product and vendor. While this information is not yet available, based on market assessments and initial product quotes, the estimated replacement cost is between \$275,000 and \$300,000.

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Council approved the appropriation of funds for the purchase and replacement of SCBAs utilizing the Community Leasing Partners in the amount of up to \$300,000 with the stipulation of waiting until February 28, 2013 to spend said funds. Should grant funding become available by February 28, 2013, the appropriated City funds shall be used for the match of the grant and replace the Ceres Fire Division SCBA units.

6:26 p.m. There being no further business Mayor Vierra adjourned the Study Session.

/s/Chris Vierra, MAYOR

/s/Cindy Heidorn, CMC
City Clerk