



SHAKER HEIGHTS

SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY June 1, 2023

8:00 AM

VIA ZOOM MEETING

Members Present: Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson
Earl Williams, Council Member
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
Carmella Williams, Council Member
Patricia Speese, Director Public Works
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member
James Sammon, Citizen Member

Others Present: Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Jim Heath, Assistant Chief of Fire
Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police
Anna Mates, Planner
Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning
Megan Sakacs, Recording Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tres Roeder at 8:00 am.

APPROVAL OF MAY 4, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Council Chair Roeder asked for a motion to approve the May 4, 2023 Safety and Public Works minutes. Citizen Member Sara Schiavoni requested for the “h” to be removed from the spelling of her name and additional information regarding the discussion on the FLOCK cameras be added to the minutes prior to approving. Council Chair Roeder stated that minutes will be represented for approval at the July meeting

TASER REPLACEMENT 2023

Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police

The Shaker Heights Police Department is seeking the City’s authorization to replace the Low-Lethality Electro Muscular Dismption (EMD) Devices (also referred to as “Tasers”). Tasers are issued to each officer in the Department and have become instrumental in our efforts to provide officers with less lethal force options. Axon Enterprise, Inc. submitted a bid in the amount of \$108,526.56.

Chief Hudson explained that the bid amount includes all the hardware and software needed to transition from the current Taser X26P system to the Axon Taser 7 system, rechargeable batteries, and also includes a five (5) year “bumper to bumper” hardware/software warranty.

Chief Hudson mentioned that the Axon Taser 7 system, is the most popular system within law enforcement nationwide. The Taser 7 system offers advanced technology that records data more accurately and downloads the data instantly through a charging dock. In addition the system is more accurate, effective, and safer. Chief Hudson also made mention that Axon does not participate in a state bid, as their products are only available directly through them.

Chief Hudson noted that the only future cost associated with maintaining the system would be to purchase cartridges, as needed, for training and field deployment. As of the time this quote was received and through negotiations Axon has quoted the price of 350 cartridges at \$26.19 per cartridge (normally \$40.25 each). Chief Hudson informed the committee that in December 2022, the Shaker Heights Police Department presented a request to City Council for \$110,000.00 to fund this capital project for the complete replacement of the Police Department's Tasers. City Council granted that request in ordinance 22-127.

Council Chairperson Tres Roeder opened the floor up for questions. Citizen Member Jonathan Hren questioned if the request for the Taser's replacement was already approved by City Council in December of 2022, why was it coming back through this committee. Council Chairperson Tres Roeder explained that council passed the budget as a whole which included replacement of the Tasers, but at that time a sole source quote had not been received. Chief Hudson agreed with Mr. Roeder's explanation and stated now that they have an exact dollar amount and supplier they are just going through the proper process. Council Chairperson Tres Roeder asked Chief Hudson to address the rationale and importance and how it helps the police force to have this low-lethality force option, as this is a question that often comes up within the community when Taser's are discussed. Chief Hudson stated that yes, Taser's are a much simpler and safer means of force in getting a person immobilized and handcuffed. Chief Hudson also stated that there are no lasting effects to a person from the Taser. Council Member Carmella Williams asked if this is a single source item because this is the only company that makes this style. Chief Hudson stated that yes this is the only company that makes the Taser's with these features and also it is a very well-known product, and if ever needed Taser would testify in court about their product.

A motion was made by Council Member Carmella Williams and it was seconded by Citizen Member James Sammon. The motion was carried.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET-NEUTRAL TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM POLICE
COMPENSATION BUDGET TO POLICE OTHER EXPENSES BUDGET**

Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police

The Shaker Heights Police Department is requesting the City's authorization to transfer \$80,000.00 from the Police Department's Compensation Budget to the Police Other Expenses budget to meet ongoing Police Department training needs.

Chief Hudson explained that in the years 2021 and 2022 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were limited training opportunities. Now that opportunities of training are available, there has been a significant increase in the number of training request in early 2023. Chief Hudson noted that there will still be sufficient funding in the Police Patrol Compensation Budget left to

cover upcoming police training after this transfer is made, as it currently is only 36% spent half way through the year.

Council Chairperson Tres Roeder opened the floor up for questions. Citizen Member Sara Schiavoni asked if this needed/required training was included in the budget that was recently passed and if this is something that is going to be needed to be done again next year. Chief Hudson stated that what he plans to do in the future is reevaluate what is spent this year taking out certain certifications that he won't have to have done again and then putting the budget together to avoid having to transfer between budgets.

A motion was made by Citizen Member Sara Schiavoni and it was seconded by Citizen Member Jonathan Hren. The motion was carried.

VAN AKEN BIKEWAY RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD DESIGN AND ENGINEERING CONTRACT

Anna Mates, Presenter

Ms. Mates is requesting approval to award the design and engineering contract to GPD Group for a not-to-exceed amount of \$246,300.00.

Ms. Mates explained that the Van Aken Bikeway has a \$1.8 million dollar construction budget and the project will be implemented in 2024. A \$1.8 million dollar construction budget of local capital funds and Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) funds have been secured as followed

NOACA TAP Funds- \$1,500,000.00
Shaker Heights Grant Match- \$300,000.00

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on May 2, 2023 to 35 engineering, planning, and landscape architecture firms. The list included many from the State of Ohio's list of MBE and WBE engineers. On May 19, 2023 two teams submitted proposals.

GPD Group- Proposed Fee \$246,300.00
Toole Design- Proposed Fee \$234,584.00

The proposals were evaluated on specific criteria, including: experience with similar projects, proposed project approach, experience of the project manager, experience managing ODOT bicycle lane projects, and DEI strategy. Both firms met these criteria and were short-listed for interviews by the selection committee comprised of Joyce Braverman, Christian Maier, Dan Feinstein, and Anna Mates. The selection committee interviewed GPD Group and Toole Design on May 25. After interviews, the Selection Committee determined that GPD Group provided a proposal that best met the RFP requirements and demonstrated the best qualifications for the project.


Council Chairperson Tres Roeder opened the floor up for questions. Council Member Earl Williams asked if Council will be looking to have any additional appropriations for this project

from anyone else. Joyce Braverman responded and said that the 10 year capital budget does reflect the matches required for the construction phase and this RFP is specific to the engineering phase and matches are already forecasted for 2024 for the construction phase.

A motion was made by Council Member Earl Williams and it was seconded by Citizen Member Sara Schiavoni. The motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 am.

Respectfully,



Tres Roeder, Council Chairperson
Safety & Public Works Committee