

July 5th Council Meeting Summary

Amending the purchasing standards of St. Clair Shores to curtail no-bid contracts was up for a vote - Ahearn, Frederick, McFayden voted against this motion which would help save taxpayer's dollars.

Mayor Hison might even bring in his business skills to help all the department heads when bidding in the future.

The fact is: the ordinance for purchasing “is intended to maximize the purchasing power and value of public funds through a procurement policy that maintains a system of quality and integrity, and which promotes efficiency, effectiveness and equity in public purchasing. It is the goal of this ordinance to recognize the obligation to the taxpayers to maximize the purchasing power of public funds to gain the best value for our residents”. (SCS CHARTER; 12.451 Purpose and intent of purchasing policies.)

The Administrative staff contract AR-4 is up in 2010 and was discussed to again save the taxpayers more money by discussing important issues regarding contract language. The city manger actually spoke and revealed a mistake that he mirrored the AR-4 to the unionized PEA contract.

Again Ahearn and Fredericks voted “No” to open the contract. What was astonishing was councilman pro-tem Ahearn called this action “pandering for votes in an election year” by councilman Walby who originally put up the motion. The job on council is to make sure that everything is for the taxpayer.

Multi-year contracts was up for approval and even though some of the contracts were sent out to bid; the council, moving from the previous agenda item on purchasing started to actually abide by the charter.

However, it was mentioned that the department heads were the ones getting paid to bid out the jobs and to bring forth information to the council. There is a problem with that if department heads granted by the authority of the city manager present council with a lack of information and inadequate bids. Blanket purchase orders and other ways around the \$10,000 mark are not going to help save money in order to close that \$2,500,000 shortfall we have in our current budget. The majority of recent acquisitions do not have adequate amount of vendors attached to the bids and we need to have more competitive bidding.

It is still council's responsibility to approve the best contract for the taxpayer.

After years of supervision and with a budget that has more expenditures than revenue GPS devices are brought forth to council from DPW along with the notion that the \$5,200,000 in water meters.

The issue of why we do not get bids from businesses is not what the city manager told the general viewing public, it is the reputation, demeanor, and policies that make other entities not want to deal with Saint Clair Shores.