

Town Hall Questions and Answers

1. Q: Can we have a town hall once the budget is released to review the budget and allow citizens to ask questions? Our Alderman Ketih has mentioned several times in the Town Hall how complex it is, and to honor more transparency with citizen having a open discussion would make sense.
 - a. **A: Yes, this sounds like a good idea, waiting for the 2023 audit**
2. Q: Why are we filling empty positions for Director of Finance, City Administrator, City Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, and Provisional Prosecuting Attorney but not filling the open Horticulture Position which has been vacant for 9 months? And I currently don't believe it is scheduled to be filled. The Parks are a huge benefit & draw to our community and not maintaining and improving our park is a long-term risk and mistake for our community.
 - a. **A: Currently the Horticulture position is not in the budget. The Parks are currently maintained by the Public Works Department.**
3. Q: Public follow-up after budget discussions to ensure citizens comments and concerns were considered is imperative to build trust and transparency with the community.
 - a. **A: Agreed. We have a portion of the Board of Alderman meeting dedicated to citizen comments. You may submit your thoughts through email, on Zoom, or in-person.**
4. Q: We need to have a balanced budget- why are we passing a deficit budget for our community? We need to have a strategic plan for our long-term focus of our community, and we need to include citizens and their input.
 - a. **A: The Board of Alderman delivered a balance budget using reserves as intended to make up the expenditures over income.**
5. Q: The Flock Cameras were stated to be grant funded and if no grant then we wouldn't use them. But we've (the city) funded \$100K w/o the guarantee of grant funding. Why did the city fund this when they said they wouldn't?
 - a. **A: The City did in fact receive grant funding to cover the first year of Flock camera use. In light of the results observed as a result of this use, the Board authorized a 5 year extension of the Flock contract.**
6. Q: Alderman Peters: Three things that I would like to see accomplished.
 - a. Connect walking around the perimeter of Brinkop Park. I collected 100 signatures to that effect which were presented to the Alderman and Park Board.
 - i. This connecting sidewalk would connect with the existing walkway ending at Brunswick Ave
 - ii. Extend to the Laurella Ave entrance to Brinkop Park
 - iii. Provide more access and enjoyment of Brinkop Park for our residents and their pets.
 - iv. Spring Flea Market at City Center
 - v. Silver Sneakers for exercise. This is a senior citizen balance class.
 - a. **Q: Recommendations are noted and under advisement**

7. Q: There is training available via the State of Missouri for new alderpersons. Mandate that new Board members attend training or even a web based option?
 - a. **A: We will look more closely into this and consider it in future months**
8. Who will take care of duties if personnel leave unexpectedly? What is the policy or procedure?
 - a. **A: The employee taking over the responsibilities of a vacant position is dependent on the position to be filled and the length of time the position is vacant.**
9. Please ensure all minutes and transcripts and all letters for each government meeting is updated in the Shrewsbury Website following each meeting and past missing assets 2023 are added before Spencer Owens leaves his position.
 - a. **A: Prior to departure, city clerk has posted previous meeting minutes**
10. When will the approved budget be posted?
 - a. **A: Approved budget posting is delayed due to loss of Director of Finance**
11. Keith mentioned a healthy reserve of 2.5 million, why is the park and storm water being removed from the parks district budget and moved to the general fund? The park's short- and long-term goals cannot be planned for or executed without a plan and the parks are a huge draw and benefit to our community. The park and storm water fund needs to return to the parks board to fulfill their strategic short- and long-term goals based on citizen feedback and input.
 - a. **A: Regardless of where the \$\$ is located within the budget, recommendations for use will need to come before the board. Moving the funds from one account to the general funds is only an accounting tool and does not mean that the funds needed for Park and Storm Water are unavailable. They are simply pulled from the general fund.**