

Chet Pardee Questions for 2023-24 Budget Preparation

Smith's answers in green. Pardee's answers in red. Smith concurred with Pardee's answers in the 5/18/23 finance committee meeting.

Questions 1-8 asked in 1/9/23 Public Comments

1. What training should be provided to newly appointed council members to the finance committee?

None considered. Bruce [Fuller] and Mark [Lamphier] replaced Al [Avery] and Joe [Luginski] with years of experience.

2. What caused the sinkhole in the Washington and Main parking lot? What are the implications for further damage and additional costs to repair?

While we continue to monitor the area, we feel this was an isolated issue and not a systemic problem.

3. Will the City have liability similar to 42 West Washington for damages caused by delays in repairing the East Washington storm sewer beyond the \$19,800 estimated repair?

Not likely. Previous owners of 42 West Washington were paid \$70,000 by the city for not repairing and causing basement damage.

4. Will the East Alley repair (12 South Main) be a city cost? What did the camera show? What is the estimated cost to repair? Who has the responsibility to pay this cost?

The camera showed collapse and repair needed. The city will expect property owners to pay. Costs not yet determined.

5. The repair of the seven Main Street paver aprons was communicated as the Number 1 safety issue in the current budget. What is the current plan? What is the cost and timing projected? Have citizens who own aprons in the M-15 right of way communicated with MDOT [Michigan Department of Transportation] as required?

After researching this matter with the city engineer, this has become a very large and complicated project. At this time, Smith continues to work with the engineer to pursue a solution as well as financing alternatives, including grants. While cost is still being determined, it could be \$200,000 or more to

replace the aprons and make the adjacent sidewalks ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] compliant.

6. Will Oakland County expect reimbursement from the city as they assume responsibility for Lower Mill Pond water level and the dam? Will this include managing the water level of Upper Mill Pond? What costs should be included in the 2023-24 budget? What will the costs be in the future?

Cost suggested as \$13,000 by OC [Oakland County] representative, likely for city 2024-25 budget. He also said UMP [Upper Mill Pond] will be connected. Equalization pipe included in West Miller Road repair and sidewalk replacement costs from HRC [Hubbell, Roth & Clark, the city's contract engineers] which MDOT [Michigan Department of Transportation] denied. Costs not included to maintain UMP water level, only to connect. Timing and costs not determined. West Miller Road and sidewalk replacement should occur at same time as UMP and LMP [Lower Mill Pond] connection.

7. How much of the \$164,193 capital budget is expected to be spent in the current budget year? On what specific projects?

Only spent \$13,000 so far according to Greg Coté [city treasurer]. Doubt any more capital projects will be done in the current budget year. Coté's estimation of \$107,000 max available before "found money."

8. Will the \$18,000 in the current budget for sidewalk repair be spent in the current budget year? (Sidewalks were last repaired in 2019 for \$29,000 using Independence Township's contractor with a \$10,000 mobilization cost.)

No sidewalk repair bids presented for council approval for expense in 2023-24 budget year.

Questions 9 through 23 asked in 3/13/23 Public Comments

9. If the city's current budget revenue and expenses occurred, how many dollars would be available for capital expense projects and salary increases in the 2023-24 budget?

According to Coté's estimate, none would be available for capital expense. Approximately \$150,000 capital budget not spent and Coté estimates \$107,000 max available.

10. Has the ship sailed on the intent to trade a DPW [Department of Public Works] truck for a new, more utilitarian truck at no cost to the city?

No, the ship has not sailed; our trucks still have excellent resale value. But at this time, we do not have the resources to research our options and obtain quotes.

11. What is the current status and projected July 1, 2023, status of the parking fund?

Maybe \$75,000 based on Coté showing \$65,424 in the bank on 4/30/23.

12. What salary increases (percent and total dollars) were included in the current budget?

Approximately 5%.

13. What are HRC's suggested priorities for street and sidewalk repairs?

HRC's September 2022 update shows as "poor" Church East, Church West, Depot Road, East Alley, Mill Street, Miller West, Overlook, Pinehurst Court, Surrey Land, and the Washington and Main parking lot. Smith suggesting Depot Road as Number 1 [repair priority].

14. How many current sidewalk sections require repair? What are the projected costs for lifting or replacing these sections? What are the projected costs for repairing the sidewalks on West Miller Road?

Smith's sidewalk survey is about half done at this time, but based on the numbers so far, we will be close to the 2019 replacement cost. Smith is estimating a total cost \$24,000 and targeting the work to be completed this summer.

15. Is there a proposed solution for the city's seven paver aprons on Main Street? For the aprons privately owned, have the owners applied for the required MDOT permits?

HRC is suggesting doing five of seven aprons between Washington and Waldon and replacing sidewalks at same time to bring both to ADA compliance. Matt's [of HRC?] \$200,000 estimate does not seem realistic. No private owner of any paver aprons has applied for the required MDOT permit.

16. What specific streets are the maintenance responsibilities of the city? Which require repair?

See street listing on HRC's September 2022 update and the above listing of streets in "poor" condition.

17. What are the parking lot sinkhole ramifications and TV camera East Alley results?

The camera showed collapse. The city expects property owners to pay for undetermined repair cost.

18. Has the city applied for grants which require matching funds? What matching amounts are required?

Yes. The LRIP [Local Roads Improvement Program] grant requires a minimum \$3,500 of road work and EGLE's [Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy] dam grant requires a \$5,600 match from the city.

19. When will the updated annual capital improvement plan be presented to council?

Presented in 5/8 council meeting. "Important" total of \$295,000 for the 2023-24 budget without seven paver aprons included.

20. What costs were incurred to resolve the Deer Lake/Middle Lake shenanigan access and bank remediation situation?

Extremely low by posting sign with park rules. No bank remediation and no fence added to south end of bridge.

21. What city costs (one-time and annually) will be required for Oakland County to assume responsibility for the Lower Mill Pond dam? Does this include connecting Upper Mill Pond to Lower Mill Pond?

Oakland County official estimated \$13,000 annually and said Upper and Lower Mill Ponds will be connected. May not understand complications with equalization pipe from West Miller HRC estimate, lack of standpipe, and no plan for West Miller Road repair, road raised, and 38 sidewalk sections replaced.

22. How much will be budgeted for the city's participation in the county's "No Haz" project?

Based on seventeen participants at Pine Knob and \$125 city cost, likely \$2,500 or \$3,000.

Questions 24-29 asked in 3/13 Public Comments

23. What was the annual revenue provided by the GO [general obligation] bond recently expired and for the GO bond yet to expire?

The expired bond generated \$164,000/year. The bond about to expire generates \$165,000/year.

24. Did the 2022 updated RAMP [Road Asset Management Plan] report by HRC include information on sidewalk sections requiring repair? Did it include sections not meeting ADA requirements?

No.

25. Will the planned sidewalk repairs include situations like the missing chunks near The Fed and near Rudy's on the west side of South Main Street that were present in October?

Pardee knows of no specific plans for sidewalk repair as opposed to replacement. The damaged surface at The Fed has been repaired. The damaged area just south of Rudy's remains a safety risk as it was last summer. Seems like an easy repair for DPW employees.

26. Will the 37 sections of cracked sidewalk on West Miller not be repaired until Upper Mill Pond and Lower Mill Pond are connected? Until a standpipe or similar is installed to maintain the water height in Upper Mill Pond? Until West Miller Road is repaired?

Pardee knows of no plan to replace the 37 sections of sidewalk on West Miller which covers with mud when it rains and the DPW uses the sweeper when it's dry. West Miller has a lot of complications. HRC did the design and MDOT did not support our grant request. Pardee thinks the only add to the design is the standpipe or similar to keep Upper Mill Pond from draining completely. Pardee expects the total cost to exceed \$200,000.

27. How many sidewalk sections were repaired in 2019 when the \$20,000 cost became \$29,000 in cooperation with Independence Township?

The original estimate was for 3170 square feet, but that quantity grew to 3968 before the project was completed (all for appropriate reasons). Based on 4x4 sections, 3968=248 sections.

28 Will MDOT have a say in how sidewalk sections on Main Street are repaired as many sections are in the right of way?

No.

29. Will the city "lift" as well as replace sidewalk sections as a more economical approach as found by Clarkston Village Place?

The city will get a quote for lifting and compare this to replacement as part of the cost analysis.