

**AGENDA
BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020
5:00 p.m.**

1) CALL TO ORDER

2) ROLL CALL

3) ADOPT PROPOSED AGENDA

4) BUSINESS

4A. Street Pavement Update

4B. Freedom Rock Discussion

4C. City Commissioner Appointment Discussion – tabled at 01/22/20 Wksp

4D. New Ideas Discussion

5) OTHER

6) ADJOURN

Disclaimer: This agenda has been prepared to provide information regarding an upcoming workshop of the Big Lake City Council. This document does not claim to be complete and is subject to change.



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By: Layne Otteson P.E., DPW/CE PW20-006	Meeting Date: 2/12/2020	Item No. 4A
Item Description: Street Pavement Update	Reviewed By: Clay Wilfahrt, City Administrator	
	Reviewed By: Deb Wegeleben, Finance Director	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

Council to discuss and provide general input regarding investments into street maintenance and rehabilitation.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Previous workshop discussions in 2019 included existing pavement condition, life cycle, rehabilitation options and some preliminary costs. This discussion is to update Council on preserving existing pavement and minimizing future costs. Staff will also share ideas how a 3rd party consultant could provide insight regarding long term pavement preservation and costs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By: Layne Otteson P.E., DPW/CE PW20-007	Meeting Date: 2/12/2020	Item No. 4B
Item Description: Freedom Rock Update	Reviewed By: Clay Wilfahrt, City Administrator	
	Reviewed By: N/A	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

Council to discuss and provide general input regarding support and location of the Freedom Rock.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Freedom Rock has initially been approved to be placed at Veteran's Memorial Park. However, concern has been raised that it may not be the most appropriate location. Staff has been in discussions with various organizations including Freedom Rock, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and the Legion. Staff will bring forth an update and sketches of suitable locations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

This item was tabled at the 01/22/20
Council Workshop

<p>Prepared By Clay Wilfahrt, City Administrator</p>	<p>Meeting Date: 1/22/2020</p>	<p>Item No. 4C</p>
<p>Item Description: Commission Appointment Discussion</p>	<p>Reviewed By: Hanna Klimmek, Comm. Dev. Director Reviewed By: Michael Healy, City Planner</p>	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

Direct staff on its preferred process to appoint commissioners

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

City staff has been discussing ways to improve upon the City’s process to appoint members to the Planning Commission, Economic Development Commission, and the Parks Advisory Committee. Currently the Committees advertise for the positions, interview all candidates at a public meeting, and then deliberate and make a selection at that meeting. Those selections are brought forward to the Council’s consent agenda for approval. There are several issues that have been raised about the current process that has caused staff to develop other methods to consider. Below are a few options to consider:

1. **Status Quo** - The Committees publicly advertise to solicit applications for all expiring terms and vacated commission seats, interview all candidates at a public meeting, and then deliberate and make a selection at that meeting.
 - a. Pros – This is a very transparent process. The public can see exactly who is interviewing along with the commissioners, though it’s rare to have members of the public show up. This also allows all commissioners to give input in the process.
 - b. Cons – currently Council does not have an opportunity to evaluate candidate’s first-hand. Since Council makes the ultimate appointment of these positions, they need to be sure they are comfortable with the selections. That comfort can come either by trusting the Commissions to make good selections, or via a first-hand interaction.

There can also be a perception of bias with these interviews. Those serving on the Commission are publicly stating their opinions about those that they may serve on the commission with. There is less of an inclination to point out faults as a result. Also, because the Commissioners know incumbents better than new candidates, there is a strong bias towards incumbent candidates. This may create a perception that the commissions are closed to anyone not already involved.

Finally, these interviews can be awkward. Asking all candidates to publicly interview in front of other candidates, as well as have their performance discussed at a public meeting is not a comfortable situation.

2. **Status Quo Plus Full Council** – The full Council could follow the same advertising process and interview the candidates either in place of the Commission, or as a supplement. This interview would happen in a public meeting, and decisions would be discussed publicly.

- a. Pros – This solves the problem of Council involvement, and is a very transparent process. Council was elected to make decisions for the City, and it would seem that having some Council input in the process would respect the representative process.
 - b. Cons – This would take more time to coordinate additional interviews, though it wouldn't be terribly onerous. As the full Council would be in attendance, these would have to be done during an official special meeting of the Council which would need to be officially "set" by Council, and an Agenda and Minutes would be required for each special meeting. It may also send the perception that the Council doesn't trust the decisions made by the Commissions.
3. **Selection Committee** –A selection Committee Could be assembled to interview and recommend candidates. The advertising process would remain the same as the status quo. The Committee members could be any variety of people, but staff would suggest some blend of Council, Commissioners, and staff. For instance, there could be two staff members, two Councilmembers, and two Commissioners. Staff would ensure that no incidental quorums of other groups would occur. Interviews would not necessarily need to be open to the public. This group would then recommend their decision to Council.
- a. Pros – Since commissioners would be discussing the interviews privately, it would be easier for them to critically analyze candidates, and as a result limit concerns about bias. Also, bringing in Councilmembers and staff who don't necessarily interact regularly with commissioners would lend some objectivity to the process and limit bias towards incumbent candidates. It would involve Councilmembers to ensure that they had some first-hand input in the process.
 - b. Cons – the process would not involve all Commissioners and/or Councilmembers possibly leaving some feeling left out. Since the interviews would not necessarily be public, the public could not watch them. However, members of the public can only observe during the process, and do not get input. Additionally, staff has rarely seen members of the public express an interest in the process.

Reappointment at Discretion of Commissioners – before the City adopted the current system, Commissioners were given the opportunity to determine if they wanted to retain their seats. If they chose to retain them, typically the Commission would recommend to Council that they be reappointed. If they did not want to retain their seat, the vacancy would be advertised and filled. Staff believes that this is not a very inclusive way of governing. Commissions should not be lifetime appointments at the discretion of the Commissioners. Staff supports one of the three processes above which all incorporate an application process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

ALTERNATIVES

Status Quo

- Full Council Interviews
- Selection Committee
- Reappointment at Discretion of Commissioners

ATTACHMENTS

N/A



WORKSHOP ITEM

Big Lake City Council

Prepared By Clay Wilfahrt, City Administrator	Meeting Date 2/12/2020	Item No. 4D
Item Description New Ideas Discussion	Reviewed By: N/A	
	Reviewed By: N/A	

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

None

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

This item is dedicated for City Council Members to bring up any ideas/projects that they would like to discuss during the Workshop.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

ALTERNATIVES

None

ATTACHMENTS

None