

Capital Projects & Assets

Original Idea

Idea to be executed

2012 Status

2012 Value

Sell the City property on 3rd St. where the old well house was to possibly be the park district or some developer. It is just sitting there with no purpose.

Sell the City property on 3rd St. where the old well house was located. Consider St. Charles Park District as potential purchaser.

This proposal was not implemented pursuant to direction of City Council.

Allocate 25% of Red Gate Bridge tax levy to General Fund

After determining the exact cost of the project, and the structure of the financing for the project, the City will consider allocating any funds that are not required to supplement the General Fund.

The final financing plan for the Red Gate Road Bridge is pending. At present, we estimate that approximately \$400,000 will be available annually to allocate for other uses or to remove from the revenue stream. Once that financing plan is finalized, it is anticipated that the City Council will make a decision regarding how to allocate the remaining proceeds from the tax levy.

Sell unused property that the City owns for development (Langum Park and S. 7th Avenue lots)

City to consider sale of surplus property that the City owns (Langum Park and S. 7th/9th Avenue lots). Preference is to sell Langum Park to St. Charles Park District.

This proposal was not implemented pursuant to direction of City Council.

City Services & Programs

Original Idea

Idea to be executed

2012 Status

2012 Value

Consider selling surplus trucks, cars and equipment online in place of the city auction.

City has implemented the suggestion of selling surplus vehicles and equipment via online methods.

This suggestion has been implemented. All surplus equipment, vehicles, unclaimed lost/stolen property, etc. is sold via online auctions to the highest bidder. To date we estimate that we have sold approximately 124 lots via an online auction process.

\$304,154

Implement a no fighting in city limits ordinance

Implement a "no fighting" ordinance where anyone fighting in city limits would be cited under a local ordinance violation and fined regardless of whether charges are filed by an individual involved.

This ordinance was approved by City Council. Through the end of 2011, a total of 20 citations had been issued.

\$12,000

Create an ordinance for underage drinking parties/nuisance parties. Homeowner gets \$500 fine attached to water bill if there is a nuisance party at their residents and they refuse to come to door.

Create an ordinance for underage drinking parties/nuisance parties whereby a \$500 fine will be levied, if there is a nuisance party at the residence.

This ordinance was approved by City Council. Since passage, there have been no calls for service for underage drinking parties.

Create loud music from cars ordinance.

St. Charles already has an ordinance to address loud music from vehicles.

The Police Department did not impound any cars for loud music in 2011 in part because of a focus on motorcycle noise enforcement. The state legislature made a change in the impound law effective January 1, 2012. The new law removed the ability to impound vehicles for loud music.

My company, Municipal Media Solutions helps governments earn new revenue by including advertising in postal and electronic mail. We are already working with the City of Northlake and Cook County.

Include 3rd party notices and/or advertising in postal and electronic mail from the City.

City staff members are in the process of evaluating the policies and procedures that would be involved in such a program. Initially the thought was that the Economic Development Department would spearhead this initiative via an outside service. However, the costs for such an arrangement proved to be uneconomical. City staff will devise policies and procedures for pricing, logistical arrangements for notices, and reviewing/approving content of ads. This will be undertaken in Fall, 2012.

Support for External Agencies/Groups

Original Idea

Review City Ordinance 15.101.150 Permit and Inspection Fees 7) i) Exempting local governmental bodies from submittal fees and permit fees.

Idea to be executed

Repeal the City ordinance exempting local governmental bodies from submittal fees and permit fees.

2012 Status

This proposal is currently being evaluated for implementation.

2012 Value

Taxes and Fees

Original Idea

Idea to be executed

2012 Status

2012 Value

Assess a City permit fee for commercial fire alarms.

Assess a City permit fee for commercial fire alarms.

This proposal was not implemented pursuant to direction of City Council.

There are a number of events that occur in the city, both on public space and private space each involving various vendors in the business of retail sales. While they should be collecting sales tax and reporting it, there is no mandate to make that happen. They should be required to register and display a certificate from the Illinois Department of Revenue to ensure the proper tax is collected and distributed.

City to improve tracking by providing information to facilities managers and events sponsors regarding their obligations and responsibilities to collect and remit tax on purchases. Also, City will place notice on special event permits, where applicable.

This initiative is pending. The plan to address this comment is to amend the City's Special Events Policy and application to educate the sponsor of the event as to their vendors' responsibility to collect and remit sales tax. Additionally, we will ask the sponsor to certify via the application that they will ask their vendors to certify that they are complying with the rules of the Illinois Department of Revenue. This will be undertaken in Fall, 2012.

Review the fee that the customer is charged for water meters.

Review the fee that the customer is charged for water meters.

The City Council approved an ordinance implementing this change on May 7, 2012.

Charge a booking processing fee (Police Department jail)

Charge a booking processing fee for those incarcerated at the Police Department jail.

This ordinance was approved by City Council and the fee was instituted November 1, 2011. From that time until the end of 2011, \$3,080 was received. For calendar year 2012 through February, a total of \$5,670 was billed, \$3,750 paid in cash and \$1,970 billed.

\$26,250

Initiate an additional permit processing fee for GIS related activities. Since the inception of GIS at the City we have assumed responsibility of maintaining a large volume of information used by the organization in a variety of ways on a daily basis to allow them to make better decisions on the public's behalf.

Changes in information, such as, addressing, buildings, roadways, utility connections, etc, are driven by permits authorizing development in the City and can be directly tied to specific activities performed by GIS division staff.

Initiate an additional permit processing fee for GIS related activities.

This is scheduled for presentation to the City Council for approval in 2013 as part of a planned update to building and engineering permit fees. Community Development and Information Systems staff have worked together to define the scope and outline the details of this initiative. Building permits that directly affect GIS activities are identified and an appropriate fee schedule determined for each permit type.

Implement 3% franchise fee for Sewer Fund (similar to Electric franchise fee)

Consider the implementation of a franchise fee as part of the comprehensive utility rate study that is currently underway, provided City's rates remain lower than those of surrounding communities.

This suggestion was considered during the utility rate study which was completed in April of 2011. At the direction of the City Council, implementation is not being pursued at this time. It is an idea that staff will continue to evaluate in the future.

Implement 3% franchise fee for Water Fund (similar to Electric franchise fee)

Consider the implementation of a franchise fee as part of the comprehensive utility rate study that is currently underway, provided City's rates remain lower than those of surrounding communities.

This suggestion was considered during the utility rate study which was completed in April of 2011. At the direction of the City Council, implementation is not being pursued at this time. It is an idea that staff will continue to evaluate in the future.

Charge a disconnect notice fee for utility customers that disregard the notice on their bills. This could be an increasing amount based on the number of disconnect notices sent to a customer in a 12 month period. Also, can remove one charge for the customer who receives a disconnect notice for the first time. We already charge a \$20 return check fee for customers that give us a bad check.

Charge a disconnect notice fee for utility customers that disregard the notice on their bills.

This suggestion has been implemented. The city has instituted a disconnect notice fee in an effort to reduce the number of disconnect notices posted/sent. This fee does provide some revenue but the overall intent was to reduce the number of disconnection notices prepared and sent. The fee is graduated based on the number of notices sent in a 12 month period and each customer may have one fee removed each year.

\$22,000

The fee is fairly new (implemented in November, 2011) and therefore the impact is difficult to quantify with certainty at this point. However, it does appear to be having an effect. In the 3 months immediately preceding the implementation, approximately 225 disconnect notices were prepared each month. With the exception of December, 2011 (which is the month immediately following implementation), the city has issued fewer than 190 disconnect notices. As time goes along, and the fee amounts increase for those issued multiple disconnect notices, it is likely that the number of disconnect notices issued will continue to decrease.

Implement a motor vehicle collision response fee.

Implement a motor vehicle collision response fee that would be recovered via insurance of at-fault parties. The individual, and not the taxpayer, will be responsible for covering the cost of the services.

This proposal was not implemented pursuant to direction of City Council.

Charge for false alarms (may be doing this already).	This is currently in place and in use under Title 9.04.010. This ordinance was passed in 1980 and alarm holders have been billed at a rate of \$25. The current annual revenue for this averages \$15,000.	In 2011, there were 110 burglary (Police) false alarm billings, with 560 warning letters generated from false alarms. From May 1, 2011 year to date, \$6,125 has been received for false alarms. For FY 10-11, a total of \$8,825 was received.	\$12,000
		The Fire Department began assessing false alarm charges on January 1, 2011. Billings did not go out until after May 1, 2011. As a result, for FY 2012, 31 false fire alarm incidents were billed, \$4,000.50 in fines were assessed, and \$3,552.50 was collected.	
