From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 12/22/2014 9:26:04 AM
To: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com,marchunt@avlcouncil.com,Cecil Bothwell <cecil@braveulysses.com>,jandavis@avlcouncil.com,cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com,Chris Pelly <chrispelly@avlcouncil.com>,Gordon Smith <gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com>,gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: A clean and inviting and functional city!
Attachments: SCAG 48 HP Leaf sucker.jpg,leaf sucker.jpg

Hi,

Just correcting our Assistant City Manager about the cost of sucking leaves. Here is a photo of our old leaf sucking system which worked quite well. It's a medium duty dump truck and an industrial sized leaf loader. Cathy Ball says it will cost upwards of $175,000 for one of these set ups and we could use 3 or 4.

Here is a photo of a brand spanking new leaf loader:

The 48 horsepower leaf loader is available at:

S G POWER EQUIPMENT
1031 SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY
HENDERSONVILLE NC 28792

828-692-4246

Cost: $21,399

Here is a link to a new medium-duty dump truck. I hope a Ford is OK:
http://www.commercialtrucktrader.com/listing/2015-Ford-F750-113406936

Cost: $79,995

That comes to $101,394 for ONE leaf sucking truck. (yes I know a small amount of modification and a little git'r done may be required, so we may need to find someone with a little expertise with vehicles. I know there is no one on Council with that type of knowledge so we may need to hire a consultant)

But ya know? We need 3 of these so we may be able to negotiate a better price? Hmm, Got a real estate agent, former CEO of an $800,000,000 company, a lawyer, and Marc Hunt who got us a whole building for free on City Council... Maybe one of them could negotiate a better deal for a leaf sucking truck!!!

OK, so let's move on to staffing said leaf sucking operation. Cathy Ball seems to think this brand new operation will require hiring brand new staff. Hmmm, we already have a crew of 3 guys using a garbage truck to pick up bagged leaves. I know, let's use existing staff and give them the right tools! Crazy I know. Hey Mr. Davis. Which costs more to maintain, a garbage truck or a medium-duty dump truck?

We are spending $15,000 a year on one use bags to dispose of some of the leaves. This doesn't seem very eco friendly. Is there anyone with organic gardening experience who cares a whole bunch about the environment on Council? Ooooh!!! Maybe Cecil could do some community service for his DUI by sucking up some leaves!!!

Here's my favorite part though. We have the unfunded mandate to maintain our storm water system so now we have a city-wide storm water maintenance fee, but we can't figure out how to use that money to buy a cheap piece of equipment to keep the storm drains clean. Have you seen the storm drain sucking machine? Now that thing looks expensive. I bet if we used a leaf sucking truck (cheap) more often then we wouldn't need to use our street sweepers and drain suckers (expensive) nearly as much.

And guess what? If City Council ordered staff to put leaf sucking back into service, all you guys would get a big round of applause (Gordon, you like that!). I mean, this is what the people want, it's affordable despite what Cathy Ball says, and it's pretty necessary for a sophisticated town located in a damn deciduous rain forest (is there a Botanical Gardens President in the house?).

Okie dokey. Just thought I'd try and help. I know you guys are really busy trying to put downward pressure on the housing market while simultaneously increasing property values, and bringin' affordable organic food to the poor people, and patching up the ozone layer and trying to get a Renoir exhibit at our museum of 20th century American Art (Gordon), but maybe ya'll should try doing something attainable.

Peace Out brothers and sister!

Jonathan
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