

The Following questions were submitted to Mr. Martin from Commissioner Sherman.

1. Use of City Vehicles

I would appreciate clarification on the City's policy regarding the use of city vehicles during work hours. Specifically:

What activities are considered permissible under the current policy?

Photos were provided showing staff using non-police city vehicles to visit a bank, a convenience store, and a local café during the morning hours.

Please advise whether these uses align with policy and whether any review is being conducted.

2. Public Safety and Site Conditions

Concerns were raised regarding safety conditions at several locations:

During First Friday, photos were provided showing exposed electrical boxes and extension cords running across walking areas without apparent protection or mitigation of trip hazards.

Along South Central, photos show holes left open without visible barriers or safeguards, creating a potential safety risk. I understand this became a public concern due to the length of time the condition remained unaddressed.

Following the most recent water main break on Third Street, why were sidewalks not closed off to pedestrian traffic?

3. January 12 Water Main Break (Third Street)

I would like to know:

What type of investigation is being conducted regarding the January 12 water main break on Third Street.

Whether the City has reviewed videos and images circulating publicly that appear to show contaminated water reentering the sewer system.

What role City staff, including the City Engineer, played on-site and whether any findings or reports are forthcoming.

4. Procurement and Ethical Practices

I am seeking clarification regarding an email that was disclosed to me suggesting the City Engineer advised a contractor (3Bs) to keep a sidewalk bid under \$35,000 to avoid review by the City Commission.

Is this consistent with City procurement policies?

Is this considered an ethical and acceptable practice under City standards?

5. Former Facilities Director Hearing

Following the six-hour hearing involving the former Facilities Director:

What were the formal findings, particularly with respect to matters that were determined to fall outside the scope of gross negligence?

6. Hiring and Human Resources Procedures

It was brought to my attention that:

Policy and procedure may not have been followed in the hiring of the Project Manager.

Policy and procedure may not have been followed with respect to the job posting process.

Please advise whether these matters have been reviewed and what corrective actions, if any, were identified.

7. Project Reporting and Oversight

I would appreciate updates or timelines regarding:

A comprehensive report on the South 2nd Street project, including its prolonged impacts on local businesses and surrounding operations.

A report on the South 25th Street lift station project.

8. Compensation and Budget Practices

Please clarify:

Why did the executive staff (specifically the City Engineer and City Planner) receive merit increases in the FY 2024 budget while in their probationary period, when other probationary employees did not?

How does this align with City policy, particularly given that the employee handbook states that COLA increases are separate from merit increases?

9. Grants and Legal Matters

I am requesting information on the following:

The \$350,000 Milton FEMA grant that the City reportedly did not apply for, including the circumstances surrounding that decision.

The status of the Maria Da Silva case, including whether it was dismissed or otherwise resolved.

10. City Engineer Concerns

Finally, I am requesting clarification on:

The City's response to legal threats allegedly made via email by the City Engineer to Mr. Anthony Stewart.

What steps are being taken to verify the City Engineer's background and credentials, as information has been shared suggesting potential discrepancies between resume claims, reference checks, and the qualifications listed in the job posting for the position.