

April 27, 2016

I'd like the City Council to consider these alternatives to the Mayor's Library Proposal:

If the Mayor and those of you who support his proposal are in agreement with funding the City Library up to the District Library's millage rate, then the amount of \$372, 385, as calculated by the latest County Auditor's numbers, is approximately \$74,000 above the present amount for Real and Personal Property Taxes budgeted for the City Library. This additional money, if given to the library, can provide for some of the necessary improvements that have been on hold for years.

Or the City Council can approve a councilmatic bond that could be scaled down to a quarter of the Mayor's proposal to \$750,000 (\$50,000 a year repayment for 20 years) for the purpose of remodeling and expanding the existing City Library by 5000 square feet without changing any personnel, arguing over Board representation, transferring the collection, or constructing a building that would be given away. This would be a bigger better library and retain all our staff without any tax increases, as the Mayor repeatedly likes to say.

The Mayor's proposal is the least attractive of the options because: 1. it offers the most risk to the City due to the high bond amount coupled with the continuing possibility of the dissolution of the Library District; 2. it offers the least value since we are transferring millions of dollars in City assets to the County while retaining no ownership which is a very poor return on investment. And with minimal or no representation on the District Library Board, the costs to the City far outweigh the benefits. There are many more alternatives to the Mayor's proposal but my choice would be to expand the existing City Library.

I highly recommend the city council members attend the CSL Board meetings since the minutes to their meetings have gotten less detailed especially in the past few meetings. However, they have been far more transparent than the City to this point. This issue may turn into one of the most costly for the City so obtaining the most unfiltered information possible would be critical to making any decision.

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