STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 4, 2016
CONSENT
ITEM #:   9
MOTION

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Kristina Handt, City Administrator
AGENDA ITEM: Open Gov

BACKGROUND:

Mayor Pearson and Council member Bloyer would like to have the City consider using a new digital tool from Open Gov that could be placed on the City's website and allow citizens greater access to and understanding of the City's revenues and expenditures. Open Gov is a leader in cloud based financial intelligence, planning and transparency software. This City of West St Paul uses this program. You can view the on their website at http://wspmn.gov/331/Finance

The City of Barnesville also uses the program but has a little different display that includes FAQs on the left hand side. Their website is https://barnesvillemn.opengov.com/transparency

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Should the Council discuss Open Gov in more detail at the next work session?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

Open Gov offers a variety of products. Summaries below from opengov.com/products/

OpenGov Budget Builder: the definitive tool for smart, streamlined budgeting. Budget Builder ensures a collaborative, coordinated budget process by offering a central place for your departments to submit proposals, budget teams to review submissions, and managers to present the budget to elected officials.

OpenGov Intelligence: delivers critical information and analytics to decision makers throughout your organization. Save time and generate visualizations in seconds, streamline your annual budget process, and share insights with the click of a button.

OpenGov Transparency: Embrace the push for transparency. Enable your constituents to explore financial data to learn how their tax dollars are spent. Reduce the time you spend complying with information and data requests.

I spoke with a sales rep for OpenGov and since the City uses Springbrook as our accounting software the initial fee is lower. OpenGov partners with Springbrook so the interfacing of the programs is easier. This requires a minimal time commitment for staff. In addition to financial data from Springbrook, the city can share any other data by simply creating an excel spreadsheet

and uploading it to the OpenGov program. If Council supports further discussion at the 10/11 work session, we could have a sample page specific to Lake Elmo created.

FISCAL IMPACT:
One time training and deployment fee: $2,500
Annual fee: $3,000-5,700 depending on level of transparency and internal or external use

OPTIONS:
    1) Discuss Open Gov program at 10/11 work session
    2) Move this item to regular agenda and discuss at this meeting
    3) Do not discuss Open Gov at this time

RECOMMENDATION:
If removed from the consent agenda:
Motion to add Open Gov discussion to 10/11 work session