

## Item 23-0043: \*Critical Timing\* 2023 Sole Source Purchase Request - Downtown Streetscape Elements

Common Council

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 7:00PM

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:37:52

All right. We'll move to the item from municipal services committee which is item 23-0043. Critical timing item 2023 sole source purchase request for downtown streetscape elements. We have a motion. We have a second. We have a motion and a second to approve. We'll open it up for discussion. Alder Hartzheim.

**Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13)** 01:38:22

Thank you chair. Flashback to 6:30pm tonight. We had this discussion because this was a critical timing special meeting for the municipal services committee. And I posed this question and I'll pose it again just because I want it to be available to the public who are only perhaps watching this meeting. I am concerned about us pigeonholing ourselves or painting ourselves into a corner as a city when we approve a design, and I understand that we approved it long ago. But when we approve a design or designs that that that connects us directly with one provider for any particular element of that design.

**Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13)** 01:39:04

We may have had that discussion I vaguely remember that we had that discussion when we talked about the downstate—downtown street guide street scape guide. But I want us to continue to be aware that the less we have the opportunity for open bidding and multiple bids from multiple suppliers, the harder it will get for us to be to be responsible to our constituents to save as much as we can in terms of money. And I also asked at that at that meeting—I asked the director if they're what percentage of the city this affects? Because if we're looking at it's only a small portion of the city where we'll need to be connected to only one vendor for all the tree grates, I'm a little less concerned about it. It's still an item of concern, but I'm a little less concerned about it just because of the volume, and I don't know if any answers were brought forth in the mean time

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:40:08

Between 6:30 this evening and now? [note: Mayor Woodford maintained a fairly even tone of voice, but there was some laughter in the chamber.]

**Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13)** 01:40:11

Correct, but there was a question.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:40:15

Director Block.

**Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works)** 01:40:17

I have had an opportunity to further review the streetscape design guide during that time, and you are correct. It's a smaller portion of the overall city of Appleton. Further, the streetscape elements are then broken down between College Avenue, arterials, the side streets, alleys, and much of it's also dependent on that terrace area in spacing of the benches from the tree grades. So, I think that the overall quantity is limited in scope as we travel throughout the downtown. And each project is going to be, you know, a case-by-case basis on "what's the width of the terrace?" and "what are we up against in terms of our streetlights, signals, and other amenities that have to be there?" electrical pedestals, things of that nature.

**Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13)** 01:41:11

Thank you.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:41:15

Alder Schultz.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9)** 01:41:17

Thank you, Mayor. Could I ask a couple of questions of Director? I guess I should have been at the 6:30 meeting. I'm just curious to know one why is—what's the critical timing for a couple of these like street benches and bicycle racks? It seems like those would not necessarily have to be installed at the construction phase of the project. So, I'm curious to know why those would be considered critical. And then secondly, we have often we often have conversations about rebranding and city branding. And I'm wondering if there's any opportunity in street benches or bicycle racks to take advantage of those opportunities and do some branding with those utilitarian elements in our streetscapes but also opportunities to do some branding. And if it feels like this is probably not the opportunity. But I don't know the scope. I guess I'm curious to know the scope of this project. How many streets it affects. I assume it's not the downtown—it's not College Avenue corridor, but I guess I'd be curious to know how many streets it affects or how big of an area in our downtown corridor this affects.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:42:19

Director Block. Okay, okay. Sorry. Okay, go ahead. No, that's good.

**Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works)** 01:42:30

These are part of contract A23. So, the downtown street reconstruction project for this year, which is Lawrence Street, Oneida, Durkee, Morrison. These were always intended to be sole sourced as part of the streetscape design element guide.

**Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works)** 01:42:48

The tree grates were a portion where we were going to put those into the contract. As Engineer Lom started making initial phone calls to our suppliers on placing orders, updating prices, we started talking about production lead times and it became apparent that these lead times have grown from 20-22 weeks. If we include those in construction project A23, they won't be done in time for the contractor to install. And it's really important, it has a trickle-down effect on well then the stamped and colored concrete can't be installed at the same time. So that's what's elevated it to a critical timing issue, and every week counts at this point. So that explains the timing and the scope of the projects for this year.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:43:38

Okay.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9)** 01:43:42

I just a quick follow up. I guess I'm slightly disappointed that that knowing this was coming that we didn't take that opportunity think about using these opportunities to brand the city and that's just my personal I guess frustration disappointment that...

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:43:56

Cost is always a consideration when we're designing projects, and as the Council's well aware, we've been battling higher costs on infrastructure projects, certainly over the last 18 months. So just to answer your

question about incorporating more discretionary elements in our designs, we had to be careful about that. And that was the reason from the administration.

**Alderperson Alex Schultz (District 9)** 01:44:21

I appreciate that answer.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 01:44:23

Any further discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Motion passes 15 to zero. Item has been approved.