

**Item 24-0076: Sole Source Engineering Services Contract to McMahon Associates as part of the 2024 Aeration Process Upgrades Project**

**Item 24-0077: Award Final Clarifier Tank Underdrain and Tank Drain Rehabilitation Contract to Sabel Mechanical**

**Item 24-0088: Sole Source purchase of Final Clarifier Tank Underdrain and Tank Drain Pumps, Pump Rail Guide Systems, and Miscellaneous Pump Fittings from Quality Flow Systems**

**Utilities Committee**

Tue, Jan 23, 2024 4:30PM

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:09**

We have no public hearings or appearances today. We have some action items. First one is 24-0076 sole source engineering services contract to McMahon Associates as part of the 2024 aeration process upgrades project in the amount of \$64,500 with a 12% contingency of \$7,740 for a project total not to exceed \$72,240.

**Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:36**

Move to approve.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:39**

We have a second?

**Alderman Israel Del Toro (District 4) 01:40**

Second.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:41**

All right, we have a motion and a second. Director Block, did you have anything? What's your mic? All right, go ahead.

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 01:57**

So, I could provide some back background on this if needed, and the memo kind of spells it all. But basically, in a nutshell, like some of the other things that have come to this committee and the Finance Committee at the wastewater plant, the plant is reaching that sweet spot for age and just like our homes. And these are one of the areas of the treatment facility that goes back to the 90s upgrade; doesn't seem that long ago for those of us that are a little bit older. I wasn't here when that last major upgrade took place. But some of these rotating pieces of equipment have reached their useful life.

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 02:30**

We did investigate the option of rebuilding. These are not as large blowers for our biological treatment, our aeration process, if you've toured the facility before, but there's still an aeration aerobic process on the backside. So, once it leaves these aeration basin, there's smaller blowers that supply air, provide mix. They are almost 30-some years old. And to rehab them is an option, but the folks that do that rebuild, can't guarantee the longevity thereafter. It's a significant cost to take them out, to send them out, to rebuild them and then cross your fingers and hope you can get that 20-years-plus useful life.

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**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 03:05**

So, we worked with McMahon Associates under a small contract to evaluate some alternatives, some more energy efficient alternatives, but still provide that reliability and long-term operations. And so, with that insight that they gave us to give us kind of a path forward, because a number of different options for this. The one that they laid forward was the best return on paper without jeopardizing that reliability part with some of—there are some array of sustainable aeration options. The ones selected gives us the back payback—the best payback from an energy consumption standpoint and reliability. It's the simplest form of the technologies that are available.

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 03:52**

And so, with that background and insight, the proposal was asked for them up front as they helped work with Focus On Energy for a possible grant incentive, and based on that experience they have in-house with some other projects and obviously this one, the recommendation to proceed with them, if the committee approves it, is being what's recommended.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:16**

Thank you.

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 04:17**

Sorry, I maybe provided too much.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:18**

No, that's wonderful. Thank you. Any questions or comments from the committee? All right, seeing none let's go ahead and vote. All in favor say aye.

**Aldermen Siebers, Meltzer, Firkus, Del Toro, and Doran 04:28**

Aye.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:29**

Any opposed or abstaining? We have none. That is recommended five zero for approval.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:35**

Next Action Item 24-0077 award final clarifier tank under drain and tank drain rehabilitation contract to Sabel Mechanical in the amount of \$44,411 with 15% contingency of \$6,662 for a project total not to exceed \$51,073.

**Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:58**

Move to approve.

**Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 04:59**

Second.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:59**

All right, we have a motion and a second. Deputy director, did you want to speak on this one, again?

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 05:04**

I can if needed. It's a similar conversation. It's the same vintage of project infrastructure. The pumps in this case is versus a blower. But the pumps have reached their useful life. There's deterioration—significant deterioration—and the underdrain system. The underdrain system side of this—these are two wet wells. If

you're familiar with the lift station, wet well, they're side by side to provide different functions. So, the one side is to provide relief, hydraulic pressure relief, on the final clarifier. So, like your sump that has a sump system. You've got groundwater seepage. This is the same thing.

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 05:39**

Back in 90—in the 90s, when they were constructing these tanks, before that underdrain system was online, they actually had a tank float. So, this system, it's real—it's a real cause of concern when it's not functional if we ever have to empty a tank for reasons of maintenance or process. And so, we want to make sure that underdrain system is performing because it's at river grade, and as could be expected, there's hydraulic pressure; there's a lot of groundwater that comes into there.

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 06:07**

And so, this project was actually a 2023 CIP. Because of backlog and other priorities with some other major projects that are going on right now, unfortunately, we weren't able to get that going, and of course, as luck would have it, some of these pumps failed. And so, we don't want to waste any time on it. It's being carried forward. We're just focusing on the absolute necessity—so replacing the damaged pumps, making sure the retrieval system is made whole, so we can replace the pumps and retrieve them as necessary, along with the discharge pipes on these for these pumps which are severely corroded.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:45**

Thank you. Any questions from the committee? All right, seeing none. Let's go ahead and vote on this one. All in favor say aye.

**Alderspersons Siebers, Meltzer, Firkus, Del Toro, and Doran 06:53**

Aye.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 06:54**

Any opposed? or abstaining? There are none. Five zero recommendation for approval.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:00**

Moving down 24-0088 sole source purchase of final clarifier tank under drain and tank drain pumps, pump rail guide systems, and miscellaneous pump fittings from Quality Flow Systems in the amount of \$89,960, with a 5% contingency of \$4,500 for a total not to exceed \$94,460.

**Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 07:23**

Move to approve.

**Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:24**

Second.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 07:25**

All right, we have a motion and a second. Deputy director, did you have anything to add for this one?

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 07:30**

It's tied to the other work. In this case, this is actually a pump. We are procuring the pumps directly. We're trying to accelerate that purchase after the approval, hopefully, for the sole source. The KSB pumps is through an authorized distributor. We did take the step of just verifying that these folks are in check. Oftentimes there is some concern that we may be getting price gouged, so we did seek out another provider just to do a price

check. That's in the memo. And as the memo would indicate in the summary of the costs, this is our least cost option.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:05**

Thank you. And do we anticipate any delay in being able to get these once we approve this?

**Interim Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 08:12**

They have indicated that they have these on the shelf. So as soon as this would get through Council, we will be able to move on it.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:20**

Wonderful. And any comments or questions from the committee? All right, seeing none, let's go ahead and take our vote. All in favor say aye.

**Aldersons Siebers, Meltzer, Firkus, Del Toro, and Doran 08:28**

Aye.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 08:29**

Any opposed or abstaining? Seeing none that is recommended five zero for approval.