

Item 24-0001: Award the City of Appleton’s “Library Signage Package” contract to Seating Concepts Inc., in the amount of \$185,994.61 with a contingency of \$10,000 for a project total not to exceed \$195,994.61

Finance Committee

Mon, Jan 08, 2024, 5:30PM

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:54

We have no public hearings or appearances. So we'll move into action items starting with 24-0001 request to award the city of Appleton’s library signage package contract to Seating Concepts Incorporated in the amount of \$185,994.61 with a 5% contingency of \$10,000 for project total not to exceed \$195,994.61.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:18

Move to approve.

Alderman Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:20

Second.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:20

All right, we have a motion and a second. Any comments or questions? Alder Hartzheim?

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 01:25

Thank you, Chair. I'm happy to see that this is coming in under budget. But I'm also concerned that we've had one contractor apply for this. I note in the memo from Director Gazza that this is—this seems like an acceptable contractor. So I don't necessarily have an issue with that. I just find it a little bit disturbing and a little bit of an issue for me. Thank you.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:50

Mic number, please. District seven. Director Gazza.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 01:55

Yeah. Previous to going out to bid we did work with our architect and the architect worked with some sign consultants to do some estimates ahead of time. And the estimate was basically was just a hair under this. And so we felt really good about where it came in. And the fact that there is a lot of technical work associated with it. There was murals that will be going on walls in addition to exterior and interior signage. So as a whole we were we're surprised; I was surprised compared to some other signage work we did. So I felt good about it. Why we only got one bid, I think it was just the magnitude of the work at the time.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 02:44

Thank you.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:45

Thank you. Anyone else? Alder Doran. 15? 13.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 02:53

Thank you. I guess just a couple of clarifying questions for Director Gazza. As far as like future pieces of the library project, then, as this one is coming forward, the signage package—will there be others yet to come?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 03:08

There is nothing remaining after this one.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 03:11

Okay, so this was the last piece?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 03:12

Yes.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 03:13

Okay. I guess I ask, because the question I had was, I saw, I believe a story this week that talked about the fundraising work that the Friends group is doing and that they're—I forget—it was a little shy of \$2 million to go yet on the fundraising. And just, I guess, wondering, at what point, you know, if that fundraising comes up short, where—when we need to start looking at options for where we may have to pare back perhaps. And if this, or there were other pieces that were still to come, you know, there might be some reason for us to not approve yet at this point or to hold to see if some changes in this needed to be made. I guess I'm just looking for maybe a little suggestion there.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 04:01

I think it would be very challenging, especially in this in this situation. There would be signage, yeah, that you could say that you could open the library, so to speak without signage, but a lot of the signage is for code compliance, whether it be marking your restrooms and just overall, all your rooms having to be marked so people can, you know, be—I mean, guess, accessibility around the facility. Certain limitations on what you could cut back on that.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 04:32

And so, I guess if I'm if I'm understanding, right, there's a compliance piece that we're going to have to do.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 04:39

Yes.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 04:39

But then there is perhaps additional signage, if you will. You mentioned murals or things that are not necessarily required as part of the meeting code or anything that correct? The more like that we you know, it's going to make the library look nicer, those kinds of things, correct.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 04:57

Yeah, there's a—there's different signage throughout the facility as you note.

Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 05:02

And so I guess my question to our colleagues is just, you know, if we get down that road, and we need to start looking to cut things—not that we want to see that have to happen, but if it does, you know, where are we going to look to if everything's already been approved, you know, and there needs to be some money found. The alternative answer is not one that I'm willing to look at. So I don't know if, you know, we're interested in looking at what a breakdown of what's required here versus what isn't, and maybe setting part of it aside, just as some contingency if we need it at some point. Just, I guess, just putting that out there for us to think about.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 05:45

I would say, I think you run the risk of, one, trying to bid it out again, or get new pricing on only on a certain part of it, a lot of it is mobilization. So if you're mobilizing twice—you know, I do think this is a good price for this. I don't envision us open a library with, you know, say for example, no exterior signage, saying that the building is the library or, for example you know, your room signage, door signage, restroom, signage, things like that. Yeah, there might be a limited amount of stuff like a few murals or something, but you we're not talking nothing that's going to make that significant a difference. The majority of it is other type of signage. But yeah, I do think that if you did start breaking it out, trying to add it later, would—you would end up costing it more. I think that it being a package, mobilization and so forth, is it's got to be taken into consideration when doing that.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:46

All right. Thank you. Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 06:49

Thank you, chair. Just as library board representative, I think it's important to point out that the capital campaign just started at the end of November. And as far as I understand from my discussions, we are running—I don't want to say ahead because I don't want to speak out of turn, but that we are on track fundraising-wise, and that there aren't any concerns at this time. Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:16

Anyone else? All right, seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote on this item. All those in favor, aye. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes five to zero.