

Remaining Action Items

Finance Committee

Mon, Mar 24, 2025 5:30PM

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 23:38

Move to approve item 25-0301.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 23:40

Second.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 23:41

All right, we have our motion. We have a second. Are there any comments or questions on this item? All right, seeing none, let's go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five to zero.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 23:54

25-0302, request to award unit J 25 mini storm sewer to M&E construction LLC in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 24:03

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 24:04

Second.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 24:05

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

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 24:07

Thank you, Chair. I am wondering if somebody in DPW would please answer for me in 20 words or less what a mini storm sewer is.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 24:19

Two? I had a 50/50 chance on that.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 24:22

A mini storm sewer is a storm sewer that's installed, typically six inches in diameter, that's intended to provide some drainage improvement for properties that, one, do not have a drainage plan and, two, often do not have a full-size storm sewer in the frontage in front of their property.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 24:42

Thank you. Could I follow up please? Could you please state where J 25 is, or what—I mean a general—I mean, are we looking at district 13 properties in this regard? Is this existing properties, or is this new properties that we're talking about?

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 24:54

This would typically be in older areas of the city's that—city that doesn't have, wouldn't have a drainage plan. I think by the end of the 80s, we had drainage plans for all the new subdivisions, so this would be older.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 25:06

Excellent. Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 25:08

Alder Croatt.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 25:09

Yeah, thank you. Just adding on to that. I believe—correct me if I'm wrong—the city does a number of these each year based on funds available. And I know there's a number of them in my district, especially in the recently flooded area.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 25:21

I was going to ask the same question because I know that I'm aware of that same program, but please go ahead.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 25:26

Correct. So, I would say this typically would not be considered a flood control program, but it would be kind of like a program that's more intended to deal with persistent standing water issues and things like that. So, we've got—we've got other line items that are more tailored toward dealing with flood control issues, but typically, typically older areas such as your district would be that, and we end up with a waiting list every year, and then we chip away at that every year. I'd say we've actually been able to whittle that that list down quite a bit over the last decade or so. So, it's—we're getting down near, near the end of that list at this point. We always get we get more every year though.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 26:10

Yeah, yeah, I know you do, and I appreciate the work that's been done there. I always think of it as—you know, think of four residential lots that come together in a corner, and that area gathers water a lot. That's where you might see mini sewer.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 26:25

And I would say it's actually fairly common for us to move into a neighborhood to address a need that's identified on a house, and then sometimes, like, the neighbor will talk to that original neighbor, or talk to staff and be like, "Oh, you guys are in the neighborhood. Yeah, I've got this issue over here too. Didn't necessarily know that I had an opportunity." As long as we're in the neighborhood, we keep our ear to the ground so that we can take advantage of those if there's, there's other locations nearby.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 26:56

Yeah, just a quick story, like, I mean, this is definitely a very beneficial program to have. Growing up on North Helen Street, the block I lived on had persistent flooding in the middle of the block, and individual neighbors, including my parents, their mitigation to keep water from going in the basement was to put a tiny berm at the end of their lot, which is great for them, but then everyone else does it, and everyone that doesn't do it in the meantime was kind of creating this even worse flooding situation for everyone the block. Eventually, at some point, a mini sewer was put in the middle of the block, which did help greatly with that flooding. So that's just one of those little things where it makes life a little bit easier for everyone. Doesn't—you don't end up with

these one off, ad hoc things that can sometimes make things worse, even though people are trying to make things better. So definitely a good program. Really appreciate it. Alder Croatt.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 27:46

Yeah, one, one last thing, the budget was 250 for this, right? \$250,000.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 27:50

Yes.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 27:51

Since this bid is substantially below that, does that mean, like, some other projects that we get more done? Or do we only—because the contract is for 250 right?

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 28:05

Yep.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 28:06

But the bid was \$159,100?

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 28:09

Correct.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 28:09

Does that mean we get more work done?

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 28:11

Yes, that is correct.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 28:13

Okay. Thank you.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 28:16

Anyone else? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five zero.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 28:25

25-0303, request to award unit Y25 lead galvanized water service replacement to Scott Lamers construction LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$486,212.08

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 28:38

Move for approval.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 28:39

Second.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 28:39

All right, we have our motion a second, and Alder Fenton.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 28:43

Thank you, Chair. Just confirming—and I'm assuming because of the budget amount and the bid amount, this is for the residential service line replacement. I see Director Jungwirth nodding. And can I follow up on that? I know that we've that you've sent out mailers to people—affected people. Can I ask, how is the compliance? Do we have—are there holdouts? Are we going to be able to eliminate the rest of the lead service lines with this project? Or...?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 29:25

So, these would be for the galvanized laterals. The lead have been replaced. So, these would be for the galvanized, and we do have approximately a five-year plan to address the remainder of those galvanized laterals. So, this is just continuing to chip away at that, getting those replaced.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 29:44

Can I follow up? But these are the private laterals—right?—that that the city has a plan and sent out notifications to folks, and, you know, to make sure that they participate and get these replaced. And that was kind of the question I was asking. Are we having good compliance with this? Are we going to be able to address?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 30:06

Yes. Yes, we are.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 30:08

All right. Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 30:09

Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 30:10

Thank you, Chair. I am curious how this relates to an item to two items down for the Safe Water Drinking loan program. That number looks like 600 and some odd thousand, and this is only 486. I'm wondering how those two relate to each other, if at all. And if we are intending to get 600 plus thousand dollars from the DNR, can we up our item 303?

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 30:42

So, yes, these are, this is for the same project. One was based on the estimate that was provided to the DNR last year, without having the benefits of actually having a competitive bidding process. So, we would—we'd certainly be able to take advantage of that maximum amount that's included in the grant. However, everything that we have identified as needing to be done within that census tract is included in this award. So that—I would say that gives us a little bit of wiggle room. If something were to come up that didn't fall within a contingency, I would say, at least we know that there would be funding available, and at that point, if we needed to do a contract amendment, then I think staff would come back to the Finance Committee with a with a contract amendment at that at that point.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 31:31

Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 31:33

All right. Anyone else? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five to zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 31:43

Next up is 25-0304, request to award unit S25 repair and prevent—preventative maintenance of parking structures to Restoration Systems Incorporated in an amount of \$1,348,594.50 with a 3% contingency of \$40,000 for a project total not to exceed \$1,388,594.50.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 32:08

Move to approve.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 32:10

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 32:11

We have a motion and a second. Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 32:14

I'm gonna hold my nose and vote for this. Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 32:17

All right. Anyone else? Alder Croatt, sorry.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 32:21

Yeah, thank you. There's a pretty substantial difference in the bids. I didn't go through each line. Any thoughts on why that might be and has Restoration Systems work—done work for the city before?

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 32:37

RSI did the 2023 work for us, the first big project that we did. They did a good job. They also did the emergency repair at Green ramp after the structure was hit by a vehicle last year. They did good work for us, and I would say it's pretty specialized work. So, what I'm concluding here is that Berglund probably had enough work already lined up to keep themselves busy, but contractors can find a way to do things like pay overtime and things like that if they feel like they can make it worth their while. So, I think that Berglund had said, "Hey, let's, let's put in a bid, see what happens. It'll be a stretch." But they went for it, which is good. And I would also say that's probably also an indication that RSI was hungry, and we got a very good bid from them.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 33:31

Good. Thank you. Yeah. It looks like some of the higher quotes are almost double—bid responses, I should say.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 33:40

Sounds good. Anyone else? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five to zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 33:50

25-0305 request to approve the acceptance of the Department of Natural Resources, safe drinking water loan program loan with 100% principal forgiveness in the amount of \$618,975—

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 34:04

Move to approve.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 34:05

Second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 34:06

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

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 34:10

Thank you, Chair. If Director Ohman could please answer what we earlier discussed about, if we don't need all of this, \$618,000 what happens with the overage? Do we not get it until we've actually done the replacements? How does that all work? And then obviously there's principal forgiveness, but will there be any kind of interest due or come through on this particular law?

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 34:38

So, if I remember correctly, with these types of loans we don't receive funding until after we submit claims after paying for the expenses, and there is no interest attached to them.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 34:53

Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 34:55

All right. Anyone else? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five to zero.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 35:05

Next up is 25-0306 Request to approve change order number one to contract. 29-25 for W 25 sewer and water construction in the amount of \$300,451 resulting in no change in the current \$70,000 contingency. Overall contract increases from \$2,312,22—sorry, \$2,312,222.22. My goodness, that's a lot of twos.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 35:35

Move for approval.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 35:36

Thank you.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 35:39

We just wanted to see how many twos—

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 35:40

Yeah, let's see how much. I'll struggle with that and then. So, thank you. All right, we have a motion, and Alder Hartzheim, go ahead.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 35:49

Thank you. We talked about this briefly at the Municipal Services meeting earlier. I'm glad to see that we're trying to push this forward and that we've got the funds to be able to do that. When will we see any kind of state reimbursement for it? And how does that affect this piece of the budget?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 36:12

There we go.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 36:14

I'm anticipating that once the work is complete and we've paid the contractor, it will be probably about 60 days from the time that we would submit to the state for reimbursement that the check would be cut. That's based on what we experienced in a similar project at the southeast corner of the Ballard 41 interchange this past last year.

Alderspersion Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 36:40

Thank you. And then the money that's obviously reimbursed back to the city then just flows through the same methodology of now we've got funds that are available for other capital projects. Don't everybody jump on that one.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 36:59

I don't know that that would give us, like, a blank check to spend. We'd still have to come through committee to identify—like, if we had identified a new project that wasn't already part of the budget submittal, I think we'd have to come back and ask for permission to work that on that additional project.

Alderspersion Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 37:15

Yeah, and I wasn't saying that's a blank check, but I was hoping that that was a confirmation that it goes back into our capital budget. Excellent.

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 37:22

Yeah, when we budget for this, we'll budget for our portion of the expenses and then have that revenue to offset the other cost.

Alderspersion Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 37:29

Excellent. Thank you.

Alderspersion Brad Firkus (District 3) 37:31

Sounds good. Anyone else? All right, seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five to zero.

Alderspersion Brad Firkus (District 3) 37:41

25-0307 request to approve change order number one to Fabick Power Systems as part of the Appleton water treatment facility emergency generator control equipment project totaling \$49,863.

Alderspersion Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 37:54

Move for approval.

Alderspersion Denise Fenton (District 6) 37:55

Second.

Alderspersion Brad Firkus (District 3) 37:55

All right, we have a motion, second. Any comments? Any questions? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five zero.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 38:08

25-0308 request to award the Appleton waste water treatment plant—sorry, Appleton wastewater treatment hardscapes and truck scale project to Vinton construction company in the amount of \$1,370,111.56 with a 15% contingency of \$205,516 for a project total not to exceed \$1,575,627.50.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 38:35

Move for approval.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 38:36

Second.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 38:37

We have a motion and a second. Any comments, questions? Alder Hartzheim.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 38:41

Thank you, Chair. I would just like confirmation that my reading skills work. This is—it's all coming out in the wash. Is that correct? In other words, we didn't use the money at one place and we needed to use it on another so the projects got changed, but it's all basically coming out in the wash.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 39:03

Yes, that's, that's my understanding. So, it—Director Stempa can comment also. We were doing a large project as part of the hardscapes project, but there was a separate project that came up with the scale. And rather than, you know, as the memo tie—tying them together and making sure we're not ripping out brand new concrete and so forth. So, then we joined the two projects together, but Director Stempa can confirm also that that there was enough money in the scale side of the project to cover that.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 39:36

Director three I see is green already. So, the sludge storage building addition project from a couple years ago, we originally had intended to put a scale in there, along with the compost pad, and because of concerns regarding costs—had that theme of we want to make sure we got the core part of the project done. We put that stuff to the side, and we're coming back at it.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 39:59

That scale is used for—as the memo states, we use it for our biosolids land application programs. We're hauling about 25,000 plus tons a year. That's all scale; that's billed accordingly. We also use it for a hauled waste program, and that three to three and a half million dollars of revenue that comes in.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 40:13

The scale down the road is not a long-term solution. It never was. That's privately owned. The family that owns it—I think it's getting to that point. And it's time to make a move, because if we have to rely on another scale, the contractors—and not even the hauled waste program, but the land application contractor, would charge us a surcharge to go way out of their way to go across a certified scale. So, it's in our best interest to put this in. Unfortunately, I was hoping to do it a couple years ago, but we have an opportunity now to get it in. So.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 40:46

Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 40:47

All right. Any other questions? Comments? Alder Croatt.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 40:50

Just a just a comment. The paragraph or section here that says "the bidding process saw strong participation from both prime contractors and subcontractors. Despite a competitive field, Vinton construction company was the sole firm to submit a bid." Um, kind of curious as to if there's a whole bunch of companies interested in this, in this work, why—why was there only one? Any thoughts.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 41:15

I'd have to defer to on the hardscape concrete part? I'd defer to Dean.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 41:21

Well, this is under the Public bid Results section for the \$1,370,000.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 41:27

Yeah, that's exactly. The only way we would know is if we were to call back some of those contractors. So initially we do get that where a lot of people will show up for the bid walk through, and then you only get one bid. We don't know if it's because they got other work and then their schedule closed, or the work is larger than they anticipated, or, you know, so forth. So, the only way we would know. But yeah, unfortunately, yeah, Vinton is the only number to go with. But it ended up being within budget, and we talked to the consultants. We look at, you know, hour—I mean, unit pricing and things like that, and felt confident that it was fair pricing.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 42:08

Okay, yeah, just found it interesting, and I thought, you know, there can't be too many companies that specialize in this type of thing. So, thanks for the clarification.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 42:18

All right, anyone else? Seeing none, let's go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five to zero. That's all we have for action items tonight.