



MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce Walden
William Gray

FROM: N. Patrick Pioletti

DATE: January 10, 2002

RE: Street Light Purchase

Issue

A request that the City Council use its authority to waive the competitive purchase requirements for streetlights in the downtown area in favor of a negotiated pricing agreement with the selected vendor.

Background

The City Council has recently been briefed on the downtown plan, in particular the outline of proposed streetscape work. Under Phase 1, new decorative lighting will be installed in downtown both in areas where none exists now and the preliminary phase of replacing existing lighting. An internal streetscape committee has been working with a steering committee of interested downtown representatives to develop a scheme for the new look. One component of the new streetscape is lighting with Lumec L-72 fixtures on decorative poles. This fixture is available from only one manufacturer, and has been on display in Lincoln Square and the Council Chambers for more than two months. It is also currently installed in other areas of Urbana, including portions of Green Street, Race Street, and Florida Avenue.

Given the decision previously to install the L-72 fixtures as a mainstay of the street lighting system, a long term pricing agreement was negotiated with the vendor. A new pricing agreement is now available to us that lowers the cost per fixture by more than \$200.00. This cost savings is realized via dealing directly with the manufacturer rather than having a contractor furnishing the equipment, the inclusion of the pole purchase from the same manufacturer, and the planned volume of the various street lighting phases.

Dealing with a single supplier/manufacturer of both components (poles and fixtures) also solves other possible problems in advance. For instance, if the poles are purchased from one manufacturer and the fixtures from another, we might encounter field problems with compatibility of components or color match, which will lead to finger pointing between the parties

and delays in the project. Further, future maintenance efforts will be more easily accomplished when dealing with a single manufacturer.

The lighting consultant on the project, Burtness Engineering Services, recommends Lumec as the supplier, based upon professional opinion, past working relationships, performance, quality, value, and price of product. A separate letter from Tom Burtness will be distributed at the meeting, which will address his recommendation in more detail.

Alternatives

Pass an ordinance waiving the requirement for competitive bidding for the purchase of street light poles and fixtures in favor of a negotiated pricing agreement with Lumec.

Pursue the usual and customary competitive bidding process for the purchase of the street light poles to be used with the Lumec L-72 fixtures.

Recommendation

It is the staff recommendation that the City Council pass an ordinance that eliminates the need for competitive bidding in this purchase in favor of a negotiated pricing agreement with Lumec.

ORDINANCE NO.2002-01-002

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF STREETLIGHT POLES

WHEREAS, the City has undertaken a large project to refurbish street lighting, portions of which have already been completed in certain residential areas of the City using the "Lumec L-72 fixtures on decorative poles; and

WHEREAS, the downtown streetscape phase of the project is ready to move forward utilizing the same Lumec L-72 fixtures, and it is the recommendation of the consultant on this project who has investigated the matter, that the poles upon which these fixtures sit also be purchased from Lumec because the price is competitive and a long-term pricing agreement regarding the fixtures and poles is available with them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows: that the Director of Public Works is hereby authorized to contract for the purchase of street light poles without the necessity of first seeking competitive bids, provided such contract does not exceed the total amount of \$_____ for all such street light poles.

This Ordinance is hereby passed by two-thirds (2/3rd's) vote of the Alderpersons then holding office at a regular meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____,
_____.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor