



Memo

Date: September 29, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor Armitage; City Council
From: Erin LaPere, City Manager
Re: Resolution 2021-127 – Engineering Contract for Hall/Washington/McClure

The Council has discussed whether to approve the contract for engineering services for the Hall/Washington/McClure road reconstruction project. At the last Council meeting, the question was raised whether the city ought to consider bidding out engineering services for this project. City Ordinance permits awarding contracts for professional services without a sealed bid process; however, administration is open to taking Requests for Proposals/Qualifications for engineering services for future projects. That being said, the administration is recommending the Council award the contract to Rowe PSC for this project for two significant reasons. First, one purpose of a sealed quote and RFP process is that the process works to ensure no firm has an advantage over another by knowing their competitor's price in advance. In this instance, Rowe's price for this project is publicly known and that eliminates the opportunity for a fair, competitive sealed quote process. Additionally, the price presented by Rowe is within industry standards for this type of work.

Secondly, we have concerns that delaying engineering work could impact our ability to stay on target with project timelines. Construction for this project is slated to begin in 2023, however engineering and other preliminary work to ensure compliance with grant funding requirements, MDOT schedules, federal environmental standards, etc must begin well in advance. As our professional engineering consultant, Rowe will work on behalf of the city to prepare and submit required materials for federal environmental compliance, prepare and submit application materials for grant funding, coordinate with MDOT throughout the project, and coordinate with outside agencies, including Consumers Energy for potential environmental matters. In the attached project scope, the basic timeline provided outlines the plan for the project. The scope further details the services to be provided which should assist Council in their deliberations.

Finally, the City has worked with Rowe PSC on many road projects in the city and has been satisfied with the performance by the firm and its engineers who have provided their professional services. Therefore, we recommend approval of this contract.

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