TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER    DEPARTMENT: UTILITIES

DATE: JUNE 24, 2002          CMR:287:02

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH ST. FRANCIS ELECTRIC IN THE AMOUNT OF $269,915 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DOWNTOWN STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the attached contract with St. Francis Electric in the amount of $269,915 for downtown street lighting improvements.

2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to negotiate and execute one or more change orders to the contract with St. Francis Electric for related, additional but unforeseen work, which may develop during the project, the total value of which shall not exceed $26,990.

DISCUSSION

Project Description
In 1997, Council directed staff to undertake a number of projects to improve the safety in the downtown area. In 1999, an assessment of the lighting levels found that there were dark spots that needed additional lighting. This project will increase lighting levels. If this project is not performed, lighting levels in the downtown area will remain at present levels.

The work to be performed under the contract is the installation of new street light poles and fixtures in the downtown area, including labor, equipment, and material to install the complete substructure and duct system and necessary landscaping repairs. The new lights
will be installed in the area bordered by Alma Street, Lytton Avenue, Middlefield Road, and Hamilton Avenue. However, no additional lights will be installed on University Avenue between Alma Street and Webster Street because lighting levels are sufficient. This area was improved in 1994.

Bid Process
A notice inviting formal bids for downtown street and roadway lighting improvements project was sent on April 29, 2002 to five contractors. The bidding period was 29 days. A pre-bid meeting was held on May 16, 2002; two bidders attended the meeting. Bids were received from three qualified contractors on May 28, 2002, as listed on the attached bid summary (Attachment A). Bids ranged from a high of $401,599 to a low bid of $269,915. One contractor did not respond. Another contractor indicated that his street lighting group was too busy. Staff has reviewed all bids submitted and recommends that the bid of $269,915 submitted by St. Francis Electric be accepted and that St. Francis Electric be declared the lowest responsible bidder. The bid is 24 percent below the staff/engineer's estimate of $356,000 of available funds. The change order amount of $26,990, which equals 10 percent of the total contract, is requested to cover related but unforeseen work (e.g., possible underground obstacles or conflicts which may arise while digging in the downtown area).

Staff checked references supplied by the contractor for previous work performed and found no significant complaints. Staff also checked with the Contractor's State License Board and found that the contractor has an active license on file.

RESOURCE IMPACT
Operating impact equals increased maintenance expenses for the new lights, poles, and for tree trimming around the new lights. Utilities is contracting for this construction because the two person street lighting crew is busy maintaining the approximately 6,000 existing street lights and does not have time available for a large construction project. Funds are available in the FY-01/02 CIP (Project 0116).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
This recommendation is consistent with current City policy and with the Council approved Utilities Strategic Plan, especially supporting strategy 7: Implement programs that improve the quality of the environment.
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Categorically exempt from environmental impact under Section 15302 of CEQA, replacement of existing utility facilities.

ATTACHMENTS

A: Bid Summary
B: Contract

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