

Brettle, Jessica

Subject: Council Agenda Consent Questions for February 10: 6, 7 and 12

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To: Council, City <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>; Council Agenda Email <CouncilAgendaEmail@CityofPaloAlto.org>

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Council Question Response

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of City Manager Ed Shikada, please find below the staff responses to inquiries made by Council Member Cormack and Council Member Tanaka in regard to the February 10, 2020 Council Meeting agenda.

- **Item 6: On-Call Inspection Services Contract**
- **Item 7: Approval of Amendment No. 2 with Brad Horak Consulting for Network & Wireless Consulting Services**
- **Item 12: San Antonio Road & East Charleston Road Intersection Improvements Project**

Item 6, On-Call Inspection Services Contract (Question from Council Member Cormack)

1. Recognizing that the amount of utilities construction varies from year to year, how much has the city spent on the prior contract from August 2016 through this month?

The current 3-year BPG (Builders Protection Group) contract covers May, 2017 to February, 2020. The total expenditure per fiscal year for inspection services is listed below.

Fiscal Year	Total Expenditure on Inspection Services	Projects
FY'17 (5/17 – 6/17)	\$29,075	Water Main Replacement 26
FY'18 (7/17 – 6/18)	\$192,925	Water Main Replacement 26 and Electric Underground District 46
FY'19 (7/18 - 6/19)	\$70,575	Electric Underground District 46 and Jr. Museum & Zoo Sewer Main Replacement
FY'20 (7/19 – 2/20)	\$0	
Total	\$292,575	

Note that these expenditures are significantly below the contract dollar limit, reflecting the actual services needed during the contract period. The new 5-year contract will provide Utilities with the flexibility to cover inspection services for special projects (such as Mayfield Reservoir tank rehabilitation project and Corte Madera Reservoir tank replacement project), upcoming electric projects, and other projects as needed.

Item 6: On-Call Inspection Services Contract (Question from Council Member Tanaka)

1. Why was this contract divided among two contractors?

The contract will be utilized by the Water, Gas, Wastewater, and Electric Engineering Division of the City's Utilities Department. Retaining two consultants enables staff to select either for specific projects based on their resource availability at the time needed. At this time, staff anticipates that Park Engineering, Inc. will more likely be assigned to inspect electrical capital improvement projects while 4Leaf, Inc. will more likely be assigned to inspect water, gas, and wastewater capital projects. The Department will ensure that the appropriate expertise is assigned to inspect each utility capital project on an as-needed basis.

2. Aren't contracts usually awarded to one bidder?

As-needed contracts are often awarded to more than one proposer.

3. What qualifications in specific were identified in 4leaf and park engineering? The contract just said 'they had qualifications'.

This project was advertised as an RFP or Request for Proposals. An evaluation committee of Utilities Department staff reviewed the proposals received. The Utilities staff found that the proposals received from 4Leaf, Inc. and Park Engineering, Inc. demonstrated that both firms have the expertise to perform inspection during water, gas, wastewater, and electric capital projects, had competitive hourly rates, and received positive feedback from other agencies which held or currently have contracts with similar scopes of work with either Park Engineering or 4Leaf, Inc.

4. How was the 1 million dollar and two million dollar figure calculated? Was this just 3 million dollars split up, or were these amounts the original bids amounts from the companies?

The contract amounts were determined based on anticipated need. Water, gas, and wastewater capital projects occur more frequently than electrical capital projects, so the budgeted amount of \$3,000,000 was split accordingly. \$2,000,000 was allocated to the contract with 4Leaf, Inc. to reflect water, gas, wastewater capital projects while \$1,000,000 was devoted to the contract with Park Engineering, Inc. to reflect anticipated electrical capital project needs. However, the contracts provide flexibility for actual assignments.

Item 7: Approval of Amendment No. 2 with Brad Horak Consulting for Network & Wireless Consulting Services (Question from Council Member Tanaka)

1. Why did the first amendment not anticipate these technological obstacles and therefore add the excess money into that amendment?

The complexity of our public safety communications systems, vehicles, and backup networks continues to increase. It is preferable, therefore, to make adjustments to reflect the specialized support needed for these systems.

2. What are the technological difficulties that caused the project to be extended to April 3, 2021 from 2019?

It is not difficulties as much as it is complexity. There are some issues pertaining to the age of some systems. Certain components and software are end-of-life and require expertise beyond the resources of City staff (outside of our normal course of business).

3. What has the vendor done so far to improve the mobile communications in PA? Have residents rejected or accepted these changes?

This is not within the scope of this vendor's contract. This has to do with public safety systems, not public mobile communications.

4. What proof is there to show that this vendor is credible and has helped PA in the past?

This vendor 1) has had a good track record with the City, 2) has a number of other public safety and some private sector clients with whom we interact and hear good feedback, and 3) is a Palo Alto resident.

5. Many residents are concerned about 5g cell towers and have been vocal about it, so what will be done to counter their disapproval?

This contract has nothing to do with consumer networks.

Item 12: San Antonio Road & East Charleston Road Intersection Improvements Project (*Question from Council Member Tanaka*)

1. For preliminary idea D, since the bike lane will not be affected, will it be easier or harder for people who bike on a daily basis?

The operational difficulty level for bicycles will remain approximately the same/unaffected. However, delay for bicyclists will be reduced. At this particular intersection, some cyclists were observed to use the pedestrian crosswalk and signal indication; if a cyclist uses a pedestrian crosswalk/signal, operations would be improved. This project primarily focuses on pedestrian safety and improvement of overall intersection operations.

Thank you.



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