

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**99-222**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

MAY 17, 1999

**SUBJECT:**

STREET SWEEPER  
PURCHASE

On April 15, 1999, the Purchasing Agent requested bids for two new street sweepers for the Public Works Department to reduce the amount of street debris washed into storm sewer intakes during periods of heavy rain. Eight vendors were invited to bid; however, only one bid was received from Road Machinery & Supplies (Mike Sill, II, President, 100 Sheridan Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa) for an Elgin Series P sweeper. The bid received was compared to those submitted on comparable units in other midwestern cities. Based on that comparison, award of the bid to Road Machinery & Supplies is recommended.

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The total cost of the two sweepers will be \$153,292 (\$76,646 each), funded by the Stormwater Utility, allocations from which have been approved in the 1998/1999 Operating Budget.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JOHN P. BELLIZZI  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approve the bid received from Road Machinery & Supplies.**

**BACKGROUND -**

The Public Works Department is purchasing two street sweepers to enhance the City's ability to remove dirt and debris from city streets prior to the material entering the City's storm sewer system. Use of the sweepers will be concentrated in the north central and northeast areas of the city which are served by combination sewers. Removing debris prior to entering the storm sewers will help to ensure the combination sewers remain open and free flowing during periods of heavy rain.

On April 15, 1999, a bid proposal was sent to eight potential vendors, with only one response being received from Road Machinery & Supplies. In the absence of competitive bids, the Public Works Department explored the experience of other cities purchasing comparable units with varying options. Following is a summary of the survey completed by the Public Works Department.

<b>Survey of Street Sweeper Purchases In Other Midwestern Cities</b>		
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Bid Price</u></b>
4/23/98	City of Gaslesburg, IL	\$89,956 *
12/1/98	City of Carroll	75,592
10/1/98	City of Clear Lake	79,173
*Includes special epoxy coating of hopper		

In addition to comparing bid prices received in other midwestern cities, the Public Works Department reviewed earlier bids received for comparable equipment. In June 1997, the City received competitive bids and awarded the purchase of an Elgin sweeper to a local vendor in the amount of \$73,646 with no trade-in. When considering normal inflationary increases of approximately 3 percent per year, in today's dollars the unit bought in 1997 would cost \$78,131. Consequently, the bid price of \$76,646 submitted by Road Machinery & Supplies is acceptable and award of the single bid is considered to be in the best interest of the City.