

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

99-310

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JUNE 28, 1999

SUBJECT:

SINGLE BID FOR
WATER BOX
RELOCATIONS

On May 28, 1999, the purchasing agent received bids for water service stop box relocations in conjunction with the Public Works Department's Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) Curb Replacement Program. Seven vendors were invited to bid; however, only one bid was received from Thrasher Service Corporation (Jim Thrasher, President, 3012 East 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa). The City compared the bid to last year's bid and recommended this bid for approval.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

FISCAL IMPACT -

The total contract cost is \$39,175. Funding for this contract is provided for in the 1999/2000 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) PCC Curb Replacement Program.

SUBMITTED BY:

JOHN P. BELLIZZI
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

The work performed under this contract consists of the relocation of water service stop boxes in conjunction with the City's PCC Curb Replacement Program. The contract provides for the relocation of 36 water service stop boxes. In addition, the contractor submitted bids on installing new water services and disconnecting existing services when required. Water service stop boxes are relocated when they are found to be too close to the curb to be removed. Relocation is necessary to avoid damage to the water service stop boxes during removal and replacement of the curb.

Staff has confirmed that only one bid was received because the

remaining companies invited to bid are too busy to perform the work. In response to individual calls, each of the non-responding companies indicated they are fully engaged in construction work to which they were previously committed. Last year's second low bidder further explained that they were unable to compete with Thrasher Service Corporation last year and, therefore, did not elect to bid this year.

An analysis of the bid submitted by Thrasher Service Corporation revealed that for that part of the contract which represents the majority of the work (water service stop box relocations), their bid price was only 2.7 percent higher than last year (\$697 per relocation in 1998 versus \$716 per relocation in 1999). Based on the reduced number of relocations required in conjunction with this year's PCC Curb Replacement Program, the overall cost of the contract will actually be \$5,188 less this year.

Thrasher Service Corporation has been the successful low respondent bidder for water service stop box relocation services for each of the last three years. Their experience and knowledge in performing this service has helped to expedite completion of the PCC Curb Replacement Program. Award of the bid to Thrasher Service Corporation is recommended at this time to ensure timely completion of the 1999/2000 PCC Curb Replacement Program.