

## Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:

ITEM \_\_\_\_\_

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

01-239

#### SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

MAY 7, 2001

SUBJECT:

CITY TOWING AND  
STORAGE  
CONTRACT

TYPE:

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM H.  
MOULDER  
CHIEF OF POLICE

The current City Contract for Towing and Storage of impounded motor vehicles will expire May 9, 2001. On February 12, 2001, the City Council approved bid specifications developed for a new towing and storage contract. Bids were distributed to nine towing contractors. Three proposals were returned. The proposals have been evaluated, and recommendations for the contract awards require approval by the Council.

#### FISCAL IMPACT -

None. Any revenue obtained from the sale of abandoned impounded vehicles is turned over to the State of Iowa. The State of Iowa reimburses the City for any expenses incurred up to a specific amount.

#### RECOMMENDATION -

**Approval to award the District 1 contract to Owen Crist Auto Body Inc. and the District 2 contract to American Towing subject to meeting the specified conditions.**

#### BACKGROUND -

The current City Contract for Towing and Storage of impounded motor vehicles will expire May 9, 2001. On February 12, 2001, the City Council approved bid specifications developed for a new towing and storage contract. Bids were distributed to nine towing contractors. Three proposals were returned.

Owen Crist Auto Body Inc. provided a proposal for District 1. American Towing and City Wide Towing provided proposals for District 2.

After evaluations of all the proposals, City staff discovered City Wide Towing did not meet bid specifications. They do not have a Certificate of Occupancy; in addition, their insurance submission and performance bond were incomplete.

Owen Crist is compliant with all bid specification requirements. American Towing is currently compliant with all bid specification requirements. Specific conditions are being recommended to keep American Towing in long-term compliance.

#### Specific Conditions

American Towing is currently in compliance with the zoning ordinance, but can and has been in violation at times during the past two months. Their current operation requires them to store all inoperable vehicles in a building. Sometimes the volume of inoperable cars exceed their building capacity causing them to be in temporary violation of the zoning code. Staff is recommending that American Towing agree to the following conditions to assure compliance both temporarily and long-term:

1. To appear before the Board of Adjustment in May and successfully receive a variance regarding the number and volume of inoperable vehicles that can temporarily be stored outside in their storage lot at 1507 SE Hartford for a period not to exceed November 1, 2001. If the variance is denied, then the contractor shall immediately shift all non-City storage of inoperable vehicles to another site to create additional capacity for City-towed inoperable vehicles at 1507 SE Hartford; and one of the following options:

2. (A) By November 1, 2001, transfer their operation to an unspecified existing "M-2" site with a Conditional Use Permit for storing inoperable vehicles outside; or

(B) Transfer their operation to the property at an unspecified site currently zoned "M-2" and appear before the Board of Adjustment and successfully obtain a Conditional Use Permit for storing inoperable vehicles outside. All conditions required by the Board of Adjustment must be met by the November 1st date, and depending on the site, the Conditional Use Permit may only run with this contract; or

(C) The 1507 SE Hartford site must have a storage building constructed of such size as to store all projected inoperable vehicles as estimated by the Police Department and agreed to in writing by the Police Chief and the Community Development Director.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the District 1 Towing and Storage Contract be awarded to Owen Crist Auto Body Inc. and the District 2 Towing and Storage Contract be awarded to American Towing subject to meeting the specified conditions.

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