

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-204

AGENDA:

APRIL 22, 2002

SUBJECT:

EXTENDING PRIOR
COMPETITIVE
PROCUREMENT
CONTRACT FOR
POLYMER
PURCHASE

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM STOWE
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS -

The Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) rebids polymer contracts every three years using extensive performance trials. These polymers are used to process 200,000 gallons of digested sludge into 135 wet tons of biosolids each day. Due to the impending replacement of thickening and dewatering equipment, the WRF requested an extension of the existing polymer contract and the current polymer suppliers (Polydyne, Hubert Issaurat, President, Toledo, Ohio and Stockhausen, Joe Pichotta, President, Greensboro, North Carolina) agreed to the extension.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The annual expense for these services is estimated at \$229,000 per year and is budgeted in Index Code 770106/Subobject Code 3203.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

The WRF uses dry or liquid polymer to dewater 200,000 gallons of liquid sludge daily. The result is 135 wet tons of biosolids that can be beneficially applied to agricultural land. Polymers are selected using an extensive trial that allows the WRF to select the optimum polymer for the particular liquid sludge and equipment used. The existing polymer bid is set to expire after three years. However, it is financially beneficial to extend the existing contract rather than to re-bid. The reasons include:

- Polymer trials cost the WRF \$10,000-\$15,000 in time and materials.
- The WRF is in the design phase of a \$5.5 million capital

improvement project that will replace the current thickening, dewatering, and polymer systems. The project will be substantially complete by July 2003. The new equipment will require an additional polymer trial to achieve peak efficiency. Eliminating a polymer trial this year will save the City \$10,000-\$15,000.

- Polymer costs in the U.S. have increased 2-4 percent per year. However, our two current suppliers, Polydyne and Stockhausen, have agreed to extend the existing contract for 12 months without an increase in price. The WRF purchases approximately \$229,000 worth of polymer per year. Locking in current prices is estimated to save the City \$5,000-\$10,000.
