



Council
Communication
Office of the City Manager

Date July 28, 2008

Agenda Item No. 35B
Roll Call No. 08-
Communication No. 08-448
Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp
Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Purchase of Pulsar Pellets chlorination tablets to treat Parks Department swimming and wading pools.

SYNOPSIS:

Approval to purchase Pulsar Pellets as a non-competitive procurement under code section 2-726 (a)(7) due to fact that the pellets compatible with the City's chlorination distribution systems are only available in the Midwest through Pool Tech Midwest, 3233 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$52,250

Funding Source: 2008-2009 Operating Budget, GE001 PKS100101, Page 228, Pools.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Park and Recreation Department has requested the Procurement Division issue a blanket purchase order for pool chlorination chemicals to be purchased during the FY09 from Pool Tech Midwest, 3233 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402 to provide the calcium-based chlorination tablets used at the City's swimming pools and novelty wading pools.

The Des Moines Park and Recreation Department operates five Class A swimming pools and four novelty wading pools all of which require chemical control feeders as directed by the State of Iowa Public Health Department. At the time of construction, the Pulsar Chlorination system was specified due to the calcium binders used with the chlorine and slurry feed Pulsar buckets to minimize chlorine gases and support total water chemistry. Calcium hardness levels affect the waters corrosive nature within the concrete pools, the calcium binder used in the Pulsar Pellets minimizes the additional calcium flakes needed to provide balanced swimming water. The Pulsar Pellets designed specifically for the City's chlorination distribution systems are only available in the Midwest through Pool Tech Midwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The Municipal Code section 2-726 (a) (7) provides for a non-competitive procurement of goods and/or services that are such a nature that they are the only goods and/or services which will fit and comply with the required use, or are an integral part of a total system so as to be uniquely compatible with existing city need, materials or equipment to be cost effective. Staff believes the purchase of Pulsar Pellets fits this criteria.

Staff has researched similar products which are specific to the chemical feeder system the chlorination products are used with. A similar product would be the PPG pellet, which could be procured at the same price as the Pulsar Pellet; however an additional expense of \$30,000 (\$3,000 per chemical feeder) would be incurred if the City switched to this product line. As new technologies emerge in the aquatic sanitation industry, staff will evaluate alternative chlorination methods looking at the cost/benefit ratio.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.