



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date:	November 21, 2011
Agenda Item No.	57
Roll Call No.	[_____]
Communication No.	<u>11-719</u>
Submitted by:	Richard A. Clark, City Manager

AGENDA HEADING:

Approve award of Bid No. V12-033, Plant Materials to lowest qualified bidder, TNT Landscape & Nursery.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approving the awarding of a contract for Bid No. V12-033, Plant Materials to the lowest bidder, TNT Landscaping (John Church, vested owner, 131 S.W. Ordnance Road, Ankeny, IA 50023), for \$58,725.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$58,725

Funding Source: Fiscal Years 2010-11/2015-16 Capital Improvements Program, Forestry Improvements, PKS146 CP040 PKS990000, G.O. Bonds, Park Improvements – Page 9.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The urban forest in the City of Des Moines is a significant public asset providing shade and character throughout the City. In 2006 the Park and Recreation Department undertook a long-term reforestation effort to ensure the future of the urban forest. In conjunction with that initiative, Park and Recreation staff worked in collaboration with the Municipal Arborist to develop tree planting specifications to ensure that each tree planted has the maximum chance of long-term survival.

Each fall, the Park and Recreation Department requests bids for plant material and the planting of trees in various City parks, cemeteries, athletic facilities, parkways, etc., for this ongoing project. Based upon the number of trees, species of trees, and logistics involved in installation at each location, the Park and Recreation Department recommends awarding the bid based on the lowest responsive, completed bid tabulation meeting the required criteria.

A bid proposal for the 2011 fall planting of 314 trees was sent by the City's procurement agent to thirteen landscape contractors; the City received a total of three bids. The low bidder was TNT Landscaping & Nursery with a bid of \$58,725.; the second low bidder was TimberPine, Inc. (18863 Jewell Drive, Earlham, IA 50072) at a bid of \$59,664.. The difference between the two bids is \$939.

TNT Landscaping & Nursery has been the successful bidder for the Park and Recreation Department's fall bid for tree planting several times and has planted hundreds of trees within the park system over the

past few years. However, concerns have been recently raised that employees of TNT were observed planting trees in the 300 block of East Walnut for a contract managed by the Public Works Department in a way that is not in accordance with the current tree-planting specifications as approved by the Municipal Arborist. Past experience in working with TNT has shown that they are a diligent contractor that works well with the City and responds quickly to any concerns about their work and plant quality. Because of this past experience, it is recommended that the Fall 2011, Parks and Recreation Department tree planting be awarded to TNT Landscaping.

Understanding the concerns regarding TNT performance under a current contract, staff will be closely monitoring TNT's compliance with the planting specifications contained in this bid.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 27, 2010

Roll Call Number: 10-1569

Action: TNT Landscaping (John Church, Owner) for plant materials for installation at various park locations to be used by the Park & Recreation Department, \$77,118. (Thirteen bids mailed, six received). ([Council Communication No. 10-589](#)) Moved by Moore to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

Date: October 26, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1946

Action: [TNT](#) Landscaping (John Church, Owner) for plant materials for installation at various parks to be used by the Parks and Recreation Department, \$90,442. (Thirteen bids mailed, seven received). ([Council Communication No. 09-764](#)) Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: October 13, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-1769

Action: [TNT](#) Landscaping for plant materials for installation at various park locations to be used by the Park and Recreation Department, \$47,520. (Eleven bid mailed, two received). Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: October 8, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-1960

Action: [Bid](#) from TNT Landscaping for plant materials to be used by the Parks & Recreation Department for installation at various City park locations, \$46,780. (Thirteen bids mailed, two received). ([Council Communication No. 07-597](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 10, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-678

Action: Iowa Outdoor Products for items 1 and 5 on bid tabulation form, \$46,800.71; TNT Landscaping for items 2 and 4 on bid tabulation form, \$63,300; Perficut Lawn & Landscape for item 3 on bid tabulation form, \$13,102.50; to be used at various City Park locations. (Twelve bids mailed, six received). Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Park and Recreation Board

Date: April 26, 2005

Action: Park and Recreation Board voted to receive and file a reforestation report on six City parks.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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