

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> September 10, 2012
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 29A <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>12-1428</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>12-476</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Ben Page, Interim Parks and Recreation Director

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Award of Bid No. V13-012, Tree and Stump Removal and Pruning, to lowest qualified bidder, Family Tree Care.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approving the awarding of a contract for Bid No. V13-012, Tree and Stump Removal and Pruning, to the lowest qualified bidder, Family Tree Care (Rick Hanson, owner, 1784 Hickman Road, Windsor Heights, IA 50324), for \$71,639.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$71,639

Funding Source: \$71,639, FY 2012-13 Operating Budget, Park and Recreation GE001 PKS010400 (Cemeteries), Page 159.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

This bid is for removal and pruning of trees in three of the City's municipal cemeteries – Glendale, Laurel Hill and Woodland. Given the age of these cemeteries, they are representative of the City's overall urban forest, in that many of the mature trees are approaching the end of their life cycle. Several consecutive years of drought and severe temperatures have led to increased tree mortality in the past two years. Also, many older trees sustained structural damage in this year's April 17 storm, creating ongoing safety concerns and danger to both monuments and the public.

Therefore, the Municipal Arborist, along with students from Iowa State University, conducted a survey of urgent tree needs in the City's cemeteries this summer. That has led to his specifications of a bid package that includes removal of 92 cemetery trees, including 33 at Woodland, 15 at Laurel Hill and 44 at Glendale, to be carried out in September/October 2012. In addition, he has included pruning of one tree at each of Laurel Hill and Woodland cemeteries for the reason of danger they present. Approximately 30% of the specified trees are evergreen trees that have been impacted by drought; the deciduous trees are more so victims of age and storms.

The Procurement Agent solicited bids for Tree and Stump Removal and Pruning under Bid No. V13-012. Eleven bid packages were sent; the City received a total of four bids. The specifications required the prospective bidders to have an ISA Certified Arborist on site during all work. The low bidder was Family Tree Care, with a bid of \$71,639.00. Second and third low bids were received from Arborvantage, Inc. (\$92,258.00) and Wright Outdoor Solutions (\$98,800.00); the fourth bid was received from Bennett's Tree Service, Inc.

It is recommended that Family Tree Care be awarded this contract in the amount of \$71,63900. The bid project will have direct oversight from the Municipal Arborist and Public Works Forestry Section staff. The ability to contract the removal of trees allows existing Forestry and Parks personnel the time to redirect and maximize efforts in tree maintenance activities to the benefit of the City of Des Moines' significant public asset. The \$118,600 budgeted in FY 2012-13 by the Park and Recreation Department for work to be completed by the Public Works Forestry Division staff in the event of emergency tree removals and other necessary tree work in City parks will not be affected by this bid project.

One of the City Goals adopted by City Council on October 23, 2006, Pride in Community Assets, states "The City will set the standard for constructing and maintaining attractive buildings, parks and infrastructure that represent our world-class city and generate civic pride." The ability to complete removal of dead and dying trees will have a positive impact on the "green" infrastructure component of this goal.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: October 23, 2006

Roll Call Number: [06-2111](#)

Action: To adopt City of Des Moines Goal Statements. ([Council Communication No. 06-682](#)). Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 6-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).