

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	May 6, 2013
	Agenda Item No.	37D
	Roll Call No.	[_____]
	Communication No.	<u>13-215</u>
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of blanket purchase order to Pool Tech Midwest to obtain Pulsar Pellets chlorination tablets for various City aquatic facilities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of a blanket purchase order for the single-source, non-competitive purchase of Pulsar Pellets-brand chlorination tablets for routine maintenance of the City’s swimming and wading pools in FY2014 under Municipal Code Section 2-726 (a)(7). Pulsar Pellets are the only product that is compatible with the City’s chlorination distribution systems; Pool Tech Midwest, Charlie Rochford, President, 3233 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402, is the only distributor of this product in the Midwest.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$65,000

Funding Source: 2013-2014 Operation budget, Pools, PKS100101, GE001, page 175 and Summer Playground Program, PKS101000, GE001, page 178.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This request is to authorize the Finance Department’s Procurement Division to issue a FY2014 blanket purchase order to Pool Tech Midwest for the provision of calcium-based chlorination tablets to be used at the City’s swimming pools and novelty wading pools. Although the amount of this product needed for proper chlorination of these facilities varies each year due to seasonal fluctuations in temperatures, humidity, and rain amounts, it is anticipated that the maximum expense necessary for the summer of 2013 season will be \$65,000. The past two (2) summers the City has spent the following on Pulsar Pellets: 2011 - \$48,042; and 2012 - \$65,360.

The Park and Recreation Department operates five (5) Class A swimming pools and four (4) novelty wading pools, all of which require chemical control feeders, as directed by the State of Iowa Public Health Department. The Pulsar Chlorination System was specified at the time of construction of these facilities due to the benefit of 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 corrosive nature of water in the concrete pools and the calcium binder used in the Pulsar Pellets minimizes the amount of additional calcium flakes needed to balance the pools’ water. The only

Midwestern distributor of the Pulsar Pellets that are designed specifically for the Pulsar Chlorination System is Pool Tech Midwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Municipal Code section 2-726 (a)(7) provides for a non-competitive procurement of goods and/or services that are of 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 meets this criterion.

Staff has researched the market for similar products which are specific to the chemical feeder system; an Accu-tab pellet manufactured by PPG Industries can be purchased for approximately \$.54 more per pound than Pulsar Pellets. Purchase of this product would necessitate an additional City expense of approximately \$30,000 for new chemical feeders at the facilities.

Staff continues to evaluate alternative chlorination methods as new technologies emerge in the aquatic sanitation industry and, to that end, will be testing a liquid chlorine product, which has multiple vendors who could supply the chemical, at one (1) aquatic center this summer season. Water quality, maintenance and potential cost savings through use of this product will be monitored by staff to determine if it is a viable alternative to the Pulsar Pellets.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 21, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-0805](#)

Action: [Pool](#) Tech Midwest (Charlie Rochford, President) for non-competitive procurement of pool chlorination chemicals for use by the Park & Recreation Department, annual estimated cost \$65,000. ([Council Communication No. 12-242](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: July 11, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-1217](#)

Action: [Pool](#) Tech Midwest (Charlie Rochford, President), as sole area-wide distributor, for a blanket purchase order for pools chlorination chemicals for use by Park & Recreation Department, estimated annual cost \$65,000. ([Council Communication No. 11-458](#)) Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: June 14, 2010

Roll Call Number: [10-938](#)

Action: [Pool](#) Tech Midwest (Charlie Rochford, President) for non-competitive procurement of pool chlorination chemicals for various City pools to be used by the Parks & Recreation Department, estimated annual cost \$85,000. ([Council Communication No. 10-319](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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