

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	May 5, 2014
	Agenda Item No.	33D
	Roll Call No.	<u>14-0711</u>
	Communication No.	<u>14-205</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) 2015.

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 FY2015 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: \$45,000

Funding Source: FY 2015 Operation Budget, Pools, PK201261, G001, page 166 and Summer Playground Program, PK201264, G001, page 169

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This request is to authorize the Finance Department’s Procurement Division to issue a FY2015 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 splash 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 2014 season will be \$45,000. The past three (3) summers, the City has spent the following on Pulsar Pellets: 2011 - \$48,000; 2012 - \$65,360; and 2013 - \$32,035 (the amount of Pulsar product purchased in 2013 was considerably less due to unused inventory from 2012 and the evaluation of a different chlorine product at one of the City’s largest aquatic facilities).

The Park and Recreation Department operates five (5) Class A swimming pools and four (4) splash 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 are in the process of evaluating alternative chlorination methods in the aquatic sanitation industry and, to that end, are testing an optional liquid chlorine product for which there are multiple vendors. Testing and evaluation of this product was conducted during the 2013 swimming season at Nahas Aquatic Center; among the factors evaluated were safety, cost savings, water quality, disinfection levels, calcium hardness levels, maintenance, and equipment cost necessary if a transition was made from pulsar pellets to liquid chlorine. Because more accurate data can be obtained over a two-year cycle that includes a variety of weather conditions, testing and evaluation of the liquid chlorine product will again be conducted this summer to determine if it is a viable alternative to the Pulsar Pellets.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 6, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-0735](#)

Action: [Pool](#) Tech Midwest (Charlie Rochford, President) sole area-wide distributor for pool chlorination chemicals to be purchased during fiscal year 2014 for use by the Park & Recreation Department, \$65,000. ([Council Communication No. 13-215](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

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 and 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 pool chlorination chemicals for use by Park and Recreation Department, estimated annual cost \$65,000. ([Council Communication No. 11-458](#)) Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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