

July 19, 2024

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in special session in the Council Chambers on Friday, July 19, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Mark Kosior, Jessica Romine

Absent:

Amber Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

None

New Business:

Award Bids: Park Street and 18th St Projects

Daniel Byam with JPR presented bids for the Park Street and 18th Street Projects. Bids were collected on Wednesday July 17, 2024. Mr. Byam stated he would summarize each packet received by project. The 18th Street Project received two bids.

Woodruff & Sons, INC., in the amount of \$1,040,953.88.

Reith-Riley Construction Co., INC., in the amount of \$1,124,647.87.

The engineers' estimate for this project is \$887,955. The low bid from Woodruff & Sons came in at approximately 17% over the engineers' estimate and after a full review it was determined that they had adhered to everything that was required in the front-end docs. Mr. Byam stated the bid tabs are attached to the bid summary letter, and he did not notice any errors or abnormalities with any of the numbers. Ms. Romine noted the significant difference in bid numbers in line-item number five, landscaping and restoration. Mr. Byam stated Woodruff & Sons has a much lower pipe unit price than Reith-Riley and believes that Reith-Riley built some of their landscape restoration and seeding costs into their pipe unit price. Wastewater Superintendent Jerry Jackson stated he believes the projects are bid a bit high because we are bidding in the middle of summer when everyone is already busy, and the project does need to be rushed.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Award Bid: 18th Street Sanitary Sewer Extension

Ms. Romine made a motion to approve Award of Bid: 18th Street Sanitary Sewer Extension to Woodruff & Sons, INC as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody questioned if Woodruff & Sons could be off or misreading in their bid for the landscape restoration and seeding portion because this is the largest outlier in comparison to the Engineers estimate and Reith-Riely. Mr. Byam stated he does not believe that to be the case. Mr. Jackson said we could ask them to review their numbers and provide an explanation. Mr. Kosior questioned where this would be paid from. Mr. Jackson stated for the 18th Street

Project, a little over half of the cost comes from Wastewater and the rest will come from the sale of property out of the general fund. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun agreed with Mr. Jackson's statement and additionally noted the Park Street Project will be paid from several places. The majority will be paid from the Tiffs, \$500,000 will be funded from ARP funds that were received from La Porte County, and a small portion will be funded from the City's ARP funds. Mayor Dermody questioned Mr. Byam if he believes their engineers' estimate is accurate at \$15,000 for seeding and restoration. Mr. Byam stated he does believe that their estimate is accurate, but he believes contractors will lump monies into other places for additional expenses. Mr. Byam used pipe pricing as an example stating we are getting a more than fair price on the piping and it is not being inflated with additional landscape costs. Ms. Romine questioned if they are using line-item number five to plug in an additional \$200,000 to help cover potential costs they may be missing on other line items. Mr. Byam agreed and stated he believes this is what they may be trying to do. Mayor Dermody questioned if it was possible to have Reith-Riley do only the landscaping restoration and seeding portion of the project because their number came in closer to the engineers' estimate of \$15,000. Mr. Byam stated he does not believe it can be done that way as it would not follow the bid process. Mr. Byam reviewed the pipe costs and noted that Reith-Riley's cost for the gravity sewer price was listed at twice the cost of Woodruff & Sons. Mr. Byam stated he does not have an issue asking Woodruff & Sons for clarity on their pricing for the landscaping restoration and seeding. Mayor Dermody stated they bid this as a per line-item bid and not an overall bid. Mayor Dermody questioned if this would delay the project if they approved based on clarification of line-item number five. Mr. Jackson said if this is not approved today, another special meeting will need to be held to award a bid. Mayor Dermody expressed the importance of proper filling out line-item numbers correctly when completing the bid process. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun expressed her gratitude for the two bids that were received as this entire bid process was rushed.

Amended Motion/Vote - Award of Bid: 18th Street Project

Ms. Romine made a motion to amend the approval Award of Bid: 18th Street Project to include approval of bid to Woodruff & Sons pending the clarification of line-item number five, landscape restoration and seeding; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

The Park Street Project received two bids.

Reith-Riley Construction Co., INC., in the amount of \$1,260,133.87.

Woodruff & Sons, INC., in the amount of \$1,499,898.88.

The engineers' estimate for this project is \$1,328,650. Reith-Riley is the lowest bid at 5% below the engineers' estimate. Mr. Byam stated the bid tabs are attached and there is a similar discrepancy under line-item number five under the lump sum bid items. Mayor Dermody questioned Mr. Byam if the two projects were similar and questioned why there is such a differentiation in the engineers' estimate on each project. Mr. Byam stated the projects are similar, however, the 18th Street Project has a little bit of pressure sewer, and the Park

Street Project is entirely gravity sewer. Mr. Jackson clarified and stated the 18th Street project is bringing sewer service to the existing houses that did not previously have it. Because their septic tanks are behind the houses and at a lower level, gravity piping was not practical. Mr. Byam stated the gravity pipe for the Park Street project is larger, 12 inches, than it is for the 18th Street project. Clerk-Treasurer Parthun clarified that the RDC will also have to approve this project based on what is being done inside and outside of the Tiff. Ms. Romine clarified that the board is only allowed to give permission to award dollars that go toward the work within our locality. Assistant City Engineer Tucker King clarified that this portion of the bid does not include any portion outside of the Tiff. The portion within the subdivision, outside of the Tiff, will be bid separately. Mayor Dermody stated we have had issues with seeding and restoration with Reith-Riley in the past where there has been minimal grass and mostly weeds and therefore requests some confirmation from Reith-Riley that the restoration and seeding will be done appropriately. Mr. Jackson stated the majority of this project will be done through a farm field, therefore grass seeding, and restoration is not a huge concern.

Motion/Vote - Approval of Award Bid: N Park Road Sewer Extension

Mr. Kosior made a motion to approve Award Bid: N Park Road Sewer Extension to Reith-Riley as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Ms. Romine made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: August 6, 2024