

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: 2015/16 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM #2 – WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT (SOUTH DUFF AVENUE)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Water System Improvements program provides for replacing water mains across the City. **The location for water main replacement with this project is South Duff Avenue (South 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Lincoln Way).** This location was selected to eliminate the existing 4" water main with intentions to upsize the main, thus meeting system capacity, fire protection and reliability needs for the water main in this location. Water services will be transferred from the existing to proposed main and the 4" main will be abandoned. This will eliminate the maintenance repairs and breaks experienced on the existing water main, which has exceeded its operational life expectancy and capacity.

**On March 2, 2016, no bids were received for this project.** Staff contacted contractors from the project plan holders list to learn their reasons for not bidding the project. The primary reason given was the added difficulty of completing the project during the hours of 7 pm to 6 am Monday through Thursday only, as required by the Iowa DOT. This requirement was specified because South Duff Avenue (US Highway 69) falls within the IDOT's jurisdictional responsibility, thus necessitating the project to be completed to their specific requirements.

At this time staff is working to negotiate a resolution with the Iowa DOT staff with hopes of changing the current project traffic control and staging requirements to allow a portion of the necessary work to be done without a time of day restriction. **Revised plans and specifications would then be presented to City Council at a later date.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. a. Accept the report of no bids for the 2015/16 Water System Improvements Program #2 (South Duff Avenue).  
  
b. Direct staff to continue to work with Iowa DOT staff to modify the project; and if a successful resolution can be reached, to prepare the project for a future bid letting.
2. Do not proceed with the project at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

City staff would continue to approach the Iowa DOT to discuss a workable compromise on the work timing restrictions to make this project more attractive to potential bidders. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.