

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR UTILITY LOCATING SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

MetroNet is an internet provider that intends to construct its network throughout the City in the next seven months. The planned pace of MetroNet's buildout exceeds the City's ability to conduct timely completion of underground utility locates. Earlier this year, MetroNet and the City approved an agreement through which the City would hire a private utility locating firm to perform its locates, and MetroNet would reimburse the costs for these services.

This bid is to perform utility locating services for the Electric and Public Works Departments for the MetroNet project. On January 6, 2020, bid documents were issued to nine companies. The bid was advertised on the Current Bid Opportunities section of the Purchasing webpage and was also sent to three plan rooms. On January 21, 2020, no bids were received.

After discussions with MetroNet, staff contacted five of firms that have a local presence or showed an interest in the project to discuss what the barriers were to provide a response. After feedback from the companies there were two main reason for not submitting a bid. The companies lacked the availability of their crews in an expected busy spring season and some of the companies would have provided their pricing a cost per linear foot instead of the hourly rate we had requested. After providing further information to the companies, staff requested each to provide a proposal to include their pricing structure and their availability. Three responses were received:

Company	Proposal
HBK Engineering, Iowa City, IA	\$75/hr
Mason Private Locating LLC, Brownsburg, IN	\$160/hr
Ground Penetrating Radar System, LLC, Toledo, OH	\$150/Wand Locate, up to 500 ft \$275/GPR Locate, up to 500 ft

Staff reviewed the proposals submitted and concluded the HBK Engineering proposal is acceptable. HBK will perform utility locating services based on an hourly rate.

The cost of the utility locating services will be reimbursed by MetroNet. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, HBK will not be able to immediately bring staff into the Ames area to start the project. MetroNet has agreed to pay the City overtime costs for the use of City locators until HBK can begin the project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to HBK Engineering, Iowa City, IA for utility locating services in the amount not to exceed of \$161,500. The costs for this service will be reimbursed by MetroNet, per the agreement with the City.
- 2 Award a contract to one of the other two companies that submitted a proposal.
2. Reject all proposals and perform the services by City staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The contract for utility locating services is to help supplement City services and provide prompt services to the MetroNet project without delaying services to other customers.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.