

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: IMPROVING THE CLEANLINESS OF CAMPUSTOWN

BACKGROUND:

At a previous meeting with the Mayor and City Council, representatives from the ISU Government of the Student Body (GSB) requested that the City work to improve the cleanliness of the Campustown Business District. In response to this request, the Council appropriated \$90,000 in the 2007-08 budget towards this objective. These funds were budgeted based on 1) the estimated cost to purchase a new machine to pick up trash in Campustown, 2) the estimated cost of the first year's depreciation for this new machine, and 3) the estimated cost of temporary labor to operate this new machine.

It should be emphasized that although the funds for a new machine were appropriated, the actual direction from the Council did not authorize the purchase of a new sidewalk sweeper. Rather, staff was instructed to explore strategies to improve the cleanliness of Campustown.

Several approaches to satisfy this objective have already been adopted.

- 1) An analysis of the number and placement of trash containers was completed. As a result, several more receptacles were added and the pick-up schedule was adjusted.
- 2) Under the leadership of the Student Affairs Commission, a program was initiated to utilize people that were ordered by the court system to perform community service to carry out litter patrol in the Campustown business area. According to feedback received from the SCAN neighborhood association that abuts this business district, this program has been achieving on-going success.
- 3) It was also observed that the Campustown business sidewalks have a large amount of accumulated filth and stains from gum and greases. To help address this issue, the Public Works Department intends to contract with a private company to power wash the sidewalks along Welch Avenue and the north side of Lincoln Way in early spring 2008.

In addition to these operational improvements, staff has explored the potential use of a small sidewalk sweeper. Fleet Services led this investigation and scheduled the

demonstration of these units. Specifications for a sweeper unit and trailer were then developed and bids were received on December 11, 2007, as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Bid</u>
<u>Sweeper</u>				
1. Trans-Iowa	Green Machine	RS414	1999 demo	\$17,900.00
2. Trans-Iowa	Green Machine	RS414	2008 new	\$23,900.00
3. Eddy-Walker	Mad Vac	PS300	2008 new	\$26,289.00
<u>Trailer</u>				
1. Trans-Iowa	Big Tex	30SA100PT	2008 new	\$4,060.80
2. Eddy-Walker	Trailerman	ETT501ON35	2008 new	\$4,169.00

The Green Machine demo unit bid by Trans-Iowa is the same unit that was used in the City's on-site demonstration. This unit is almost nine years old, has 37 hours of operation, no horn and no back-up alarm. For these reasons, purchase of this unit is not recommended. The front and side rails on the Trailerman trailer that was bid with the Mad Vac unit are 14" above the deck rather than the 6" that was specified. This could have potential safety implications. The 2008 Green Machine and Big Tex trailer package met all of the bid specifications.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the purchase of the 2008 Green Machine and Big Tex trailer package from Trans-Iowa of Ankeny, Iowa in the amount of \$27,960.80. Approving this option will cost the City \$42,294 (\$5,000 for part-time labor, \$9,333 for depreciation, and \$27,961 for the purchase of the sweeper).
2. Approve the purchase of a different sweeper/trailer package.
3. Accept the bids, but do not move forward with purchase of a sweeper/trailer package. Approving this option would indicate that the City Council is satisfied with the efforts made to date to improve the cleanliness in the Campustown Business District.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Several initiatives to improve the cleanliness of the public areas in the Campustown Business District have been implemented with success. If the City Council is satisfied with the progress made to date to accomplish this object, then alternative #3 should be selected.

From the limited exposure the staff gained through the demonstrations of the sidewalk sweepers, it appears that our cleanup efforts could be improved further with the purchase of this type of machine. However, until we use the equipment over an

extended period of time, we won't know for sure how effective this equipment will be. If the Council would like to see the City do more towards this objective, then Alternative #1 should be supported by approving the purchase of the 2008 Green Machine and Big Tex trailer package from Trans-Iowa of Ankeny, Iowa in the amount of \$27,960.80. This action will assure an adequate time to test the effectiveness of this type of machine.