

ITEM #: 17
DATE: 11-08-22

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZING STAFF TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE ARTERIAL STREET (DUFF AVENUE) FOR SANITARY SEWER WORK

BACKGROUND:

Part of the Power Plant generation process requires periodically blowing down (discharging) water from the Power Plant's cooling towers. The blowdown water is discharged into the storm sewer under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

In June 2017, the Electric Department received a revision to the permit for the Power Plant's cooling tower blowdown water. The limits in the new permit require the Power Plant to either treat the water before it is discharged to the storm sewer or find another method of disposal. Staff has evaluated options and determined discharging the water to the sanitary sewer system was the most economical and best long-term solution. This option will allow the water to be treated at the Water Pollution Control Facility to remove contaminants.

Council awarded a construction contract to Keller Excavating on August 9, 2022. The original plans called for a connection to be made into an existing manhole in the intersection of Duff Avenue and Main Street. After the construction contract award, the contractor proposed a no-cost change order to adjust the alignment of the pipe. The change order authorized the installation of a new manhole straight west of the Power Plant, north of the intersection of Duff Avenue and Main Street. **In the interest of public safety, safety for the contractor, and to efficiently complete the work, the contractor will need to close a section of Duff Avenue. Municipal Code requires City Council approval for closures of arterial streets.**

To facilitate the construction project, staff is asking that City Council temporarily delegate (for this project only) to the Electric Services staff the ability to close a section of Duff Avenue. The contractor anticipates starting work on November 14, 2022. Contract documents allow up to three weeks to complete the work. However, an incentive is provided to the contractor to complete the work within seven days.

The traffic control plan has been attached showing the phases of the closure. The traffic control plans have been reviewed by the City's traffic division. Provisions will be made to ensure there are signs indicating area businesses are open during the construction closure. Through traffic will be directed to use the detour. Local traffic to Main Street businesses will be allowed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize staff to close a section of Duff Avenue as needed to facilitate the completion of the Power Plant sanitary sewer connection.
2. Deny the request and direct staff to modify the project to avoid the street closure.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorizing City staff to close the section of Duff Avenue for this project will allow for greater flexibility and ensure the project can proceed without any undue delay. Staff will work with the City's Public Information Officer to ensure that the public is adequately informed in advance of the closures.

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