

ITEM #:	16
DATE:	08-11-26
DEPT:	PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: MAXWELL AVENUE RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT

BACKGROUND:

The existing retaining wall along the east side of Maxwell Avenue near 12th Street has deteriorated significantly in recent years and is in need of replacement. The wall has begun to rotate outward and is no longer sufficiently holding back the slope that projects west from the Ames Municipal Cemetery towards Maxwell Avenue.

On July 13, 2026, the City issued Invitation to Bid #2026-162, seeking a qualified contractor to replace the deteriorated retaining wall. The project includes removal of the existing retaining wall, installation of a new gravity block retaining wall, and restoration of the surrounding area.

The bid closed on July 29, 2026. Five bids were submitted, as summarized below:

Bidder	Bid Amount
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$150,000.00</i>
Country Landscapes	\$129,800.00
MB Lawn Care LLC	\$132,000.00
The Grading Company, Inc.	\$138,344.25
Distinctive Landscapes	\$150,636.50
ALPHA Landscapes, LLC	\$199,967.50

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) provides funding for this project in FY 2026/27 of the Streetscape Enhancement Program in the amount of \$150,000 in Road Use Tax.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Country Landscapes of Ames, Iowa in the amount of \$129,800.
2. Award the contract to one of the other bidders.
3. Accept the Report of Bids, but do not award a contract at this time.
4. Reject the bids and do not proceed with the project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Awarding this contract will allow the deteriorated retaining wall to be replaced to prevent the cemetery slope from shifting into Maxwell Avenue. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Location Map.pdf](#)