

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
October 30, 2012

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers following the Finance Committee, on Monday, October 29, 2012. These members were present:

Jeff Rath, Chair	Ryan Bubb
Ed Houdeshell	Shirley Stare
Duke Frost	

We wish to report:

1. Resolution No. 12-85 authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service of the City of Newark, Ohio to advertise for bids and enter into contract, subject to the appropriation of funds, for replacement of lime slaker units at the Water Treatment Plant was discussed .

Roger Loomis- stated that the Water Treatment Plant has two lime slakes, they are 15 years old and been rebuilt several times. He stated that it was time to replace them. He explained that a lime slaker takes lime and mixes with water then there is a product that is used as a softening process at the Water Plant. Slaking is adding water to a material. The estimated cost for both units and installation is approximately \$300,000. The funds will come out of the equipment replacement fund which they appropriate each year for this purpose. The new system will be stainless steel units and will hopefully last longer. He stated the average life of one of the machines is 10 years and they got 15 out of theirs.

Mr. Rath- asked Mr. Loomis what the expected life is of the stainless steel system.

Roger Loomis- stated that he has been advised to 20 years.

Motion by Mr. Bubb, second by Mr. Frost to send to full Council
Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

2. Resolution No. 12-86 authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to advertise for bids and enter into contract for certain essential supplies for various departments of the City of Newark, Ohio, for 2013 was reviewed.

Director Rhodes- explained that this is a resolution authorizing him to advertise for bids for various supplies needed calendar year 2013.

Motion by Mr. Bubb, second by Mr. Frost
Motion was carried by a 5-0 vote .

3. Review Resolution No. 12-89 authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service and/or Public Safety of the City of Newark, Ohio on behalf of the Newark Division of Fire to enter into a contract without competitive bidding for the purchase of certain fire equipment.

Assistant Chief O'Brien- explained that the legislation before the Committee is for buffer gear which is essentially the suit they wear during firefighting operations has a 7 year life span. The

department received a grant this year to purchase buffer gear and other equipment. They are asking for the waiving of bidding because they have chosen gear that is specific to their needs and desires which were determined by trial and error and what is best for the safety of their personnel.

Motion by Mr. Bubb, second by Ms. Stare to send to full Council

Mr. Rath- stated that he understands that the grant dictates the vendor

Assistant Chief O'Brien- stated that the grant does not specify the vendor it specifies what equipment can be purchased. He stated that they are requesting to waive the bidding because they have chosen a vendor that meets their specific requirements. He stated that there is only one vendor you meets their specifications.

Mr. Guthrie- asked whether there is something in the request that outlines the justification for going with a single vendor.

Assistant Chief- responded that all gear has to meet the National Fire Protection Agency standards. He stated that there are different styles; the different styles have different wear and tear on your body. He further stated that they are purchasing the most efficient, safest gear to protect their personnel that the department can afford.

Mr. Rath- asked for an explanation to the third whereas. He stated he was interpreting it like the department has to use a specific vendor.

Law Director- stated that he did not draft this piece of legislation; he is not able to answer that question.

Lesa Best- asked who the vendor is the department has chosen to use.

Assistant Chief O'Brien- Globe Fire Manufacturing out of McConnellsville.

Lesa Best- asked how long the City had been purchasing gear from this company.

Assistant Chief O'Brien- answered that it has been years.

Lesa Best- competitive bidding is not a good thing, she thought that it was a good thing.

Mr. Rath- stated that he would ordinarily agree that competitive bidding is good however when we are discussing our firefighters and their lives being at risk, he would much rather approve a purchase order for something predictable than a product selected by competitive bidding. If we know that we have a product the department is familiar with and that works, he would rather purchase the same product. If for no other reason but to make our firefighters feel comfortable knowing their lives are protected whether the other products works as well or not.

Assistant Chief O'Brien- he stated that the gear is custom fit and can be repaired or replaced locally in a matter of a couple of days.

Lesa Best- asked how much a suit costs

Assistant Chief O'Brien- \$1,000.00 to \$4,000.00 the suits they are purchasing are \$2,000.00.

Mr. Rath- asked how many suits we are purchasing.

Assistant Chief O'Brien- 15-20

Mr. Houdeshell- asked what happens to the other suits

Assistant Chief O'Brien- stated that they have to be destroyed and the department destroys them.

Mr. Guthrie- stated that he didn't think that anyone was questioning the value of the safety of our firefighters but when we make expenditures that it is a good idea when we expect a departments recommendations we should have a clear justification as to why we are not looking at other vendors when it comes to Council

Mr. Ellington- asked if the life of the suits is 7 years no, matter how many fires they are in.

Assistant Chief O'Brien- clarified that the suits do have a life of 7 years regardless of the number of fire they are exposed to. The material is self-deteriorates after so many washes and

exposures. There is evidence out there that shows that no matter how you wash the suits cancer causing agents which stay on the suits and over a period of time they build up and the protect ability of the material degrades.

Mr. Ellington- asked whether they could be sprayed

Assistant Chief O'Brien- he stated they cannot be re-sprayed.

Mr. Marmie- stated that he would like to clarify that the City has used this vendor for a number of years and that the Fire Department could have circumvented the system and bought a couple of suits at a time and not had to concern themselves with competitive bidding. Mr. Marmie stated that the threshold is set for larger projects and that they should do the right thing and allow the Fire Department to purchase the suits from the supplier of their choice whom the City has had no problems and purchased from for years good quality products.

Mr. Guthrie- stated that he thought all that was being asked for was an explanation.

Motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

4. Consider Ordinance No. 12-40 approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances and a resolution as part of the various component codes of the codified ordinances; providing for the adoption of new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances; repealing ordinances and resolutions in conflict therewith; and declaring an emergency.

Law Director- stated that this is the standard bi annual that we pass so that the ordinances and resolutions that were adopted can be published.

Motion by Mr. Bubb, second by Mr. Houdeshell to send to full Council

Mr. Rath- asked why it is being declared an emergency and how does it qualify.

Law Director- stated that it is due the time table established by the publisher in order to have it printed and distributed in a timely fashion.

Motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

Jeff Rath, Chair