

SUBJECT: Temporary Public Works Inspector

PREPARED BY: Public Works

DATE: March 6, 2000

FOR AGENDA OF: March 13, 2000

SUMMARY: The City will save substantial capital funds by hiring a City inspector in lieu of hiring engineering firms to do daily inspections.

Background: The City's current inspection practice is to hire the engineering design firm to perform inspections on Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs). The costs for having an engineering firm inspect construction are quite high. Most firms charge \$65 or more per hour for their inspectors (that are usually not engineers). Many times, the inspector charges 8 to 12 hours per day towards the project. Typically, the total inspection fees nearly equal design fees.

Goal: Establish a revised method for CIP inspection that minimizes expenses but still provides sufficient inspection oversight to protect City interests.

Proposal: Public Works recommends that the City hire a non-permanent seasonal employee to conduct CIP inspections. (This inspector needs to be experienced with constructing water, sewer, and storm water piping, buildings and structures, and roads.) Attached is the proposed job description.

City Benefits: The City will be able to control overall inspection costs by:

- a) paying an inspector directly instead of also paying the engineering firm's overhead and profit
- b) directly supervising which projects receive lessor or greater inspection oversight
- c) designating work hours; e.g., limiting overtime
- d) having one inspector oversee many projects instead of having one inspector for every project.

Savings: Estimated savings of using a City inspector in lieu of hiring an engineering firm to perform daily inspections for summer, 2000 construction projects is approximately \$150,000.

Request: Public Works is requesting authority to hire an inspector for Capital Improvement Projects. The requested wage is \$25 – 30 per hour, not including applicable City costs.

Financial Information: To obtain a qualified inspector that is willing to work for no payroll benefits the City needs to offer \$25 - \$30 hourly wages. Therefore, the full hourly cost for the employee will be from \$29.41 - \$35.29. The employee will be hired

Presented with: Ord 00-29
Date: 4/10/00 Verified by: [Signature]

for a maximum 4-month period at a total possible cost to the City of approximately \$27,000.

Funding Source: The inspector will be funded from CIP project accounts that the inspector works on. Some of these projects will receive state grants and the State will share 50 – 70% of the inspection costs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For Council to approve Resolution 00-12.

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Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Attachment:
Job Description

