

**Agenda Item 58 January 18, 2017**

**Fish: Authorize Price Agreements with three firms for on-call civil engineering services not to exceed \$500,000 for each Price Agreement (Ordinance)**

My name is Dee White and I live off of Foster Road in SE Portland. First I'd like to extend my congratulations and welcome to our new Mayor Wheeler and new Commissioner Eudaly. I am glad both of you won. I have high hopes for your success.

I object to this Contract. It is nothing but a make-work contract for three engineering firms who are among the largest current contractors with the Portland Water Bureau.

Capital Improvement Projects have long term contracts, with long term engineering contracts that often and unacceptably, are not closed until well after the project is complete. Issuing three \$500,000 contracts for anticipated "on call" engineering needs in this case, is redundant and unnecessary and could be looked at as a favor or a crony consulting contract. This is unacceptable and should be considered by our new Mayor who has pledged accountability and fiscal responsibility to the ratepayers and citizens of Portland.

There are contracts in place. This on-call contract is redundant, ambiguous and erroneous, lacks clarification and should be cancelled and dismissed.

**Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Eudaly:** This \$1.5 million contract was drawn up under Hales' in November. It is politically loaded and wasteful. Please cancel this contract or postpone until further review by you both, much like you did with the Housing bond money that the citizens of Portland handed to you. I was among these citizens and a supporter of the bond.

**Ambiguous:** The Impact Statement states the following under Community Impacts:  
The action provides needed engineering services for various capital improvement projects.

Since the capital projects are not named, the public has no way of knowing the ongoing and final cost of any of these so-call multiple projects that are currently underway unless they do FOIA requests and spend copious amounts of time watchdogging these Task Orders, which is ridiculous. We don't know who is getting what, what for, how much and for what multimillion dollar capital improvement project. This needs clarification.

**Vague:** The total amount for this Ordinance/contract is \$1.5 million. This figure is nowhere on this document. On a quick read through, I comprehended \$500,000 going to three engineering cronies. The second reading, I see that it is \$500,000 for EACH Price Agreement, with each of the three engineering companies receiving \$500,000 each. You may consider this nothing but semantics. But clarity matters.

**Erroneous or wrong:** The contracts are specifically for civil engineering services. The Community Impact Statement states that each capital improvement project has a dedicated public involvement plan AND

personnel to scope community impacts prior to project implementation. Yet, in the all three of these contracts, the personnel assigned to do the work include two principals from a public involvement firm; one of them currently under contract on the WA Park improvement Project. Again, make-work, unnecessary contract here, even double payment? There are also technical writers, landscape architects and environmental planners on these contracts. This needs clarification.

Also the way these contracts are set up, the public will NEVER know where this money goes, or be able to track the money, because the funds will be issued via Task Orders invoices, which can only be seen if the public does a public record request.

And finally, I don't understand why this contract is not signed by one single city official. How can a contract be binding with not one official signature? All of them are signed only by an unnamed city attorney. There is a line for the bureau director, an elected official, the chief procurement officer and the city auditor. All with N/A filled in.

I hope that you will vote to dismiss this unnecessary contract or at the very least, pull it in for further consideration as questionable, unnecessary spending. Thank you.

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