Council Business Meeting

January 16, 2018

Title:	Approval of Personal Services Contract for the preliminary engineering of the Ashland Canal Piping project (2015-17)
From:	Paula C. Brown, PE Public Works Director paula.brown@ashland.or.us

Summary:
Before the Council is a contract for professional engineering services. The contract is with Adkins Consulting Engineering, LLP for preliminary engineering of the Ashland Canal Piping project per the 2012 Water Master Plan. This project was released through an open request for qualifications (RFQ) based proposals. Adkins Consulting Engineering was selected as the best qualified among three proposers. Since selection, staff negotiated the scope of work and associated preliminary engineering costs with Adkins. Due to the scale of this project, staff has elected to complete only Phase 1A defined in the RFQ at this time. Additional phases of engineering services will be negotiated separately after the completion of Phase 1A and brought before Council for approval. The goal of this project is to replace the open-channel irrigation canal with below ground pipe(s) in order to improve the water quality in Ashland Creek and to assist with our goal for overall water conservation.

Actions, Options, or Potential Motions:
Council has the option to approve this contract or refer back to staff for a new request for proposals. Potential motions include:

1. Move approval of a contract for professional engineering services for the preliminary engineering of the Ashland Canal Piping project with Adkins Consulting Engineering LLP.
2. Direct staff to reconsider a new solicitation for the preliminary engineering of the Ashland Canal Piping project

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends Council move to approve the contract for professional engineering services for the preliminary engineering phase 1A of the Ashland Canal Piping project with Adkins Consulting Engineering LLP in the amount of $192,257 and authorize the appropriate signatures on the contracts.

Resource Requirements:
The 2017-19 Biennium Capital improvement Project (CIP) budget includes System Development Charges (SDC) funds for contracted services in the amount of $1,452,000 for this project. This project is 100% SDC eligible.

Expenses for this project will be reimbursed through a low interest (1%) Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of $1.3 million authorized by Council at the August 1, 2017 business meeting.

Policies, Plans and Goals Supported:

City Council Goals:

- *29 Promote conservation as a long-term strategy to protect the environment and public utility needs.*
- *30 Deliver timely life-cycle capital improvements.*
- *31 Maintain existing infrastructure and plan for future improvements to meet regulatory requirements and minimum life-cycle costs.*
- *32 Implement recommendations of adopted master and capital plans.*
- *22 Prepare for the impact of climate change on the community.*

Background and Additional Information:

At the August 1, 2017 Business Meeting Council authorized a DEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of $1.3 million to complete the Ashland Canal Piping project. Staff advertised the request for qualifications based proposals on August 30, 2017. Three proposals were received on October 3, 2017. Consultant interviews were held with Adkins Consulting Engineering and RH2 Engineering on November 9, 2017. Staff sent notice of intent to award a professional services contract, conditioned on Council approval to Adkins on November 15, 2017. Staff has met with Adkins numerous times to develop and finalize the project scope of work and cost. Adkins subsequently submitted a final scope and fee proposal on January 4, 2018 that was accepted by staff. Due to the complexity of this project, Staff also intends to enter into a personnel services contract with a Public Relations Firm to assist Staff with strategic communications and public outreach.

The remaining phases of this project to be negotiated separately after successful completion of Phase 1A include: Phase 1B Easements and Permitting, Phase 2 Final Engineering/Bidding Services and Phase 3 Construction Services. Current estimates to complete the remaining engineering services total $470,000.00. Current estimates of construction costs range from $1.3 to $1.8 million.

2012 City of Ashland Comprehensive Water Master Plan

The Ashland Canal is a regular source of seasonal irrigation water around the City. The Canal has also been infrequently used as a raw water source for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). It was most recently used in 2015 due to dropping water levels in Reeder Reservoir. Prior to its use in 2009, the City hired Carollo Engineers to perform a series of tests on the raw water quality. The results of this testing revealed that the Talent Irrigation District (TID) source was acceptable for use as a raw water supply to the WTP at that time. It was also confirmed that the City could continue to use TID as an intermittent raw water source to help resolve seasonal supply deficiencies and meet future supply demands. The City's 2012 Comprehensive Water Master Plan identifies the need to pipe the Canal as soon as practical.

Ashland Canal

The portion of the Ashland Canal downstream of the Starlite Monitoring Station and terminating at Wright's Creek is owned and operated by the City of Ashland. The City of Ashland further divides the Canal into two sections: 1) The front section between the Starlite Monitoring Station and Terrace Street Pump Station, and 2) The back section from the Terrace Street Pump Station

to the terminus on Wright's Creeks. For the purposes of this project, the City is only piping the front section of the Canal (approximately 10,000 lineal feet**)** between the Starlite Monitoring Station and Terrace Street Pump Station.

The City has a contract with the Talent Irrigation District for approximately 1,369 acre feet of water annually. The front section of the Ashland Canal begins at the Starlite Monitoring Station and terminates in the wet well of the Terrace Street Pump Station. From there the City can; 1) Choose to pump to the Water Treatment Plant for potable water treatment, 2) Gravity feed into a siphon that conveys the water across the Ashland Creek drainage to the back section of the Canal, or 3) Gravity overflow through a pipe into Ashland Creek at Lithia Park. The siphon outfall is above Lantern Hill Drive. The back section of the canal terminates into Wright's Creek near Grandview Drive. In drought years the Ashland Canal water that is pumped from the Ashland Canal by the City's Terrace Street Pump Station up to the Water Treatment Plant, is treated to drinking water standards.

Raw water in an open Canal is vulnerable to contamination from a variety of sources. These contaminants increase treatment costs at the Water Treatment Plant and reduce the water quality of Ashland Creek. Additionally, open canals are susceptible to water losses through seepage and evaporation. Like many other local waterways, Ashland Creek routinely exceeds the State's maximums for E. coli bacteria in the summer months. The City routinely samples Ashland Creek for bacteria and posts public health notices along the Creek when Oregon Health Authority standards are exceeded. The Ashland Creek E. Coli Bacteria Study (2011 Rogue Riverkeeper) shows that the Ashland Canal is a major contributor of E. coli into Ashland Creek. The Study also shows that E. coli concentrations increase gradually from Tolman Creek Road to the Canal outfall into Ashland Creek. It is suggested that pet and/or animal waste adjacent to the Canal may be contributing the higher than normal levels of bacteria in the Canal which is then conveyed to Ashland Creek.

Next Steps:
If approved, staff will execute the contract and initiate kick off meetings. Staff will host a page on our website for project updates, schedule open meetings and begin dispersing information to various media sources. It is anticipated that this phase of the Canal Piping project will be complete within 12 months.

Attachments:

- Personal Services Contract between the City and Adkins Consulting Engineering, LLP

Reference:

- Request for Qualifications Based Proposals – Ashland Canal Piping Project (available upon request)