THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: May 23, 2023

Subject: Sole Source Approval for Aquatic Informatics

Staff Resource(s): David Melton, Water Resource Dept Director, Brenna Cook, Compliance Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution for a sole source approval for the Aquatic Informatics Water Information Management System (WIMS) /RIO software which includes annual subscriptions and technical support costs.

Background:

- WIMS is a database that compiles all data collected from plant operations and water quality testing. RIO is a build off of WIMS that allows staff to collect the data using mobile devices while in the field.
- The original contract with Hach Corporation for the WIMS/RIO software was completed in May of 2019 at the cost of $70,730 (this contract was also approved by the IT department).
- The Water Production division of the Water Resources Department continues to use the software to collect data for monthly reports for State regulators and compile necessary data to monitor water treatment plant processes.
- Hach transferred ownership and responsibility of the WIMS/RIO software to Aquatic Informatics in July 2022.
- As staff extend the contract to renew annual subscriptions and technical support fees, Water Resources is reaching the $90,000 mark that requires Council approval.
- Aquatic Informatics is the sole developer and sole distributor of the WIMS/RIO software solutions. Aquatic Informatics is also the sole provider of Support and Maintenance Agreements (SMA) and Software as a Service (SaaS) subscriptions for WIMS/RIO, which includes access to their 360° Support Portal, software updates/upgrades and technical support.
- As this is a sole source product, Council approval is required to continue extending the contract of a sole source provider.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The original contract for the WIMS/RIO software was completed in May of 2019.
- The outreach and engagement followed the City's business inclusion processes.
- Staff followed the required Minority & Women-Business Enterprise outreach plan at that time.

Council Goal(s):

- Improve/Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Software provides the Water Production Division with a program to store all three water treatment plants data in one place where reports can easily be created.
- Dashboards with reports and graphics will help determine better treatment options and provide better monitoring of treatment processes.

Con(s):

- If not approved, software will no longer be available to use.

- Other options are available but start-up of a new program would create higher costs and more work on staff to build a new software platform that is currently working.

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for this contract ($9,938 annually) is available in the Water Resources operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute sole source approval for the Aquatic Informatics Water Information Management System /RIO software which includes annual subscriptions and technical support costs.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SOLE SOURCE APPROVAL FOR THE AQUATIC INFORMATICS WATER INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/RIO SOFTWARE WHICH INCLUDES ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT RENEWALS.

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-129(e)(6), the City of Asheville does not have to engage in competitive bidding for purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials or equipment when (i) performance or price competition is unavailable; (ii) a needed product is available from only one source of supply; or (iii) standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-312, the City of Asheville has authority to operate a public enterprise; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-20.1, the City of Asheville may enter into contracts with private entities to carry out any public purpose the City is authorized to engage in; and

WHEREAS, the City currently utilizes AQUATIC INFORMATICS WIMS/RIO software to collect data for monthly reports to our state regulators and compile necessary data to monitor water treatment plant processes; and

WHEREAS, the use of AQUATIC INFORMATICS WIMS/RIO software will utilize the most efficient performance to manage data for the City of Asheville's three water treatment plants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Asheville, is hereby authorized to extend the contract for the WIMS/RIO software subscriptions and technical support through Aquatic Informatics to provide efficient data management for the Water Production Division of the City of Asheville's Water Resources Department.

Read, approved, and adopted this 23th day of May, 2023.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney