

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 26th, 2013

Chairman Jaclyn Hotard

Vice-Chairman Art Smith

Members: Lucien Gauff, III, Jaclyn Hotard, Art Smith, Ranney Wilson, Lennix Madere, Marvin Perrilloux, Michael Wright, Larry Snyder, Cheryl Millet

PRESENT: Lucien Gauff, III, Marvin Perrilloux, Larry Snyder, Michael Wright, Jaclyn Hotard, Ranney Wilson, Lennix Madere, Cheryl Millet, Art Smith

ABSENT: None

BID OPENING REPORT/AWARDS:

Randy Vincent - Bid Award - (Carry Over 3-12-13) Wastewater Line Rehabilitation

The administration request that this item be carried over again.

Randy Vincent - Authorization for bid advertisement for Reverse Osmosis Unit membrane filters

Randy Vincent stated, *"This advertisement is for annual pricing for membrane filters to be ordered as needed."*

MOTION: Councilman Snyder moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to grant administration authorization for bid advertisement for Reverse Osmosis Unit membrane filters. The motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the River Parishes Transit Authority for transit services

Theresa Rodgers, CAO, stated, *"This agreement provides for continuation of transportation services through the RPTA. Services are funded through the Louisiana Department of Transportation and local matches of \$125,000 from both St. John and St. Charles Parish. This amount was approved in the 2012 budget and administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the River Parishes Transit Authority for transit services. The motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to execute Final Change Order #6 with Blastco Texas, Inc. in a decreased amount of \$9,075.00 for the Water Tank Rehabilitation - Priority 2 project

Theresa Rodgers stated, *"This change order decreases the final contract amount and increases the contract time due to weather delays and negotiations to re-blast the tank's interior. The \$9,075.00 decreases the total contract amount to \$1,049,175.00. Administration recommends approval."*

MOTION: Councilman Gauff moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute Final Change Order #6 with Blastco Texas, Inc. in a decreased amount of \$9,075.00 for the Water Tank Rehabilitation - Priority 2 project. The motion passed unanimously.

Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to execute a Certificate of Substantial Completion with Blastco Texas, Inc. for the Water Tank Rehabilitation - Priority 2 project

Theresa Rodgers stated, "The work performed under this contract has been reviewed by all involved and has been deemed substantially complete. Administration requests authorization to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Smith seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to execute a Certificate of Substantial Completion with Blastco Texas, Inc. for the Water Tank Rehabilitation - Priority 2 project. The motion passed unanimously.

Torri Buckles - Authorization to sign a contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks for the annual Independence Day Celebration Fireworks display in the amount of \$31,500.00

Torri Buckles, EDC, stated, "This agreement with Pyrotecnico Fireworks is for the annual Fourth of July Celebration on the river. Pricing is the same as last year and the event is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3."

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Perrilloux seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to sign a contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks for the annual Independence Day Celebration Fireworks display in the amount of \$31,500.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard - West Shore Levee Project

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "I would like to ask the administration as it relates to the West Shore Levee Project have we identified a funding source for matches that we may be required to pay as it relates to this project?"

Theresa Rodgers stated, "As you know the Pontchartrain Levee District and our congressional delegation have lobbied strongly for funding for this project. We know that the initial step is that the Corp's budget the US Army Corp of Engineers budget needs to include a sufficient amount to continue the study and to continue this project. Another piece of it is the actual construction requirement and if that is not fully funded at the federal level and there has to be cost sharing or some revenue sharing program. We don't know at this time what all of those entities will be."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay and has the administration, is there a plan if the levee is not funded and we know in one of the latest bills this project was removed from the Sandy bill. Is there a plan B?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "There are actually several plans there is currently a word of bill that is being put forth that our project is in that bill currently again. It was removed from the Sandy supplemental, it is currently in a word of bill that has not been passed in a number of years so our delegation is continuing to explore several options we have discussed three one is this mechanism, the other is a comfort level that the 60 million originally approved for Sandy will not be sufficient so they are anticipating to have to go back before congress and there is another opportunity and we are continuing to work with Senator Richmond as well as Senator Landrieu for inclusion of our levee in the administration's budget."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you think that we should look at some of the alternatives in case this happened where the levee didn't get funded because what do we do if it is not?"

Natalie Robottom stated, "Part of the problem is the funding but the initial problem is the authority and approval by the Corp and I kind of walked in and things change on a daily basis. I did receive information that the Corp did put money in our budget for 2012. There has been an additional \$300,000.00 to continue the study. The ultimate amount that is remaining is \$650,000.00. Senator Landrieu has directed and written to Col. Fleming who has confirmed the study is ongoing and they did continue it. We also know that Senator Vitter is the chairperson of the organization that oversees FEMA so he is working with them as well to make sure that he provides budget authorization for the project and that is our problem right now our project has not been fully authorized because the study isn't complete. For about 10 years or so since 2010 there has been no funding so that has been remedied so there is funding and the studying is continuing so the first step is to get it approved and I think I heard a part of what Mrs. Rodgers said as a council and a parish president we need to consider the options for funding a levee. What other parishes have done is pass taxes they have also out of their bond issues put aside funding in parishes where there are surpluses they plan for that and those are the things that we would consider. We also know that we have done a really good job of refinancing and reducing debt and paying off debt which has freed up some additional funds for bonding any opportunity that this council takes to do that some of those funds need to be put aside for our match and of course it is my understanding that it is a 65/35 split federal/non-federal share and we would have to come up with locally 20% of what the non-federal share is and the PLD would come up with the rest. So depending on the amount and of course the longer it takes the more it cost. I have at least three figures for the total cost of the levee and of course until the final design is approved and some Corp dollars are assigned to that then we are not really going to know."

Councilwoman Hotard asked, "Do you think at some point or maybe it is something that we can work on simultaneously just in case we don't get funded for a federal levee because we have seen in some parishes where they have constructed non-federal levees do we need to look at something like that just in case to have two trains going at one time."

Natalie Robottom stated, "That is clearly an option and we are also working with the Corp of Engineers who is charged with interim measures because whatever even if we had all the money to build one today it wouldn't be built by Hurricane Season so they are working with our

teams now on interim protective measures that is part of their charge without authorization and so in addition to those other two options there is also another one moving."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay maybe in the coming months we can get together, the council and the administration, to talk about some of the funding ideas that we need to put together just in case we need to come up with a match and then I guess secondly also looking at if we need to do a non-federal levee look at that as well so we will get together and maybe start brainstorming."

Natalie Robottom stated, "I am almost sure the firm that is actually working on our levee is also exploring that option at least for part of the parish through the levee district. So we have asked that they take a look at those types of things. Additionally I think in the short run again you can't count on it but you continue to work on it the bill as proposed would expedite the study as well as provide the funding and it was 100% of the funding so that is the option that I am looking for that is why we are continuing to work that one that is the best one for us but understanding that there has to be other options as well."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Okay thank you."

Theresa Rodgers - Authorization to memorialize a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the St. John ARC

Theresa Rodgers stated, "Administration requests authorization to memorialize the 1994 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the St. John ARC for continued use of the Parish building and land located at 101 Bamboo Street in LaPlace. This agreement is required for the ARC to receive FEMA reimbursement for repairs made to the building following Hurricane Isaac."

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilwoman Hotard seconded the motion to grant administration authorization to memorialize a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the St. John ARC. The motion passed unanimously.

Any and all other financial concerns

There were no other financial concerns at this time.

Adjournment

MOTION: Councilman Perrilloux moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.