

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 27, 2008
Chairman Ronnie Smith
Vice-Chairman Jaclyn Hotard

Members: Haston Lewis, Danny Millet, Charles Julien, Jaclyn Hotard, Darnel Usry, Ronnie Smith, Cheryl Millet, Dale Wolfe, Steve Lee

PRESENT: Danny Millet, Darnel Usry, Ronnie Smith, Cheryl Millet, Steve Lee, Haston Lewis, Charles Julien,

ABSENT: Jaclyn Hotard and Dale Wolfe

BID OPENING REPORT/AWARDS:

Paul Oncale - Bid Opening - Emergency Response, Management and Recovery Services

Paul Oncale, Director of Public Safety, stated, "We opened proposals this afternoon for emergency response, management and recovery services. There was one proposal received from DRC Services Inc. There are thirteen pages of pricing and other parameters to measure so I am not going to go through all of that. I would like to have a motion to take this under advisement."

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilwoman Millet seconded the motion to take the bid from DRC Services Inc. for Emergency Response, Management and Recovery under advisement. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe and Councilwoman Hotard absent.

Paul Oncale stated, "In late April we had opened some bids for bunker gear for the fire department. We took it under advisement and basically we have had it under advisement for like a month now because I had to do a determination if the low bidder met the criteria or not. After getting a determination we found out that the low bidder was non-responsive. They did not bid on what we asked for. Therefore I would like to throw out that bid and award it to the next bidder which is the highest bidder BGS for \$57,450.00. They actually bid on what we asked for. I checked with legal counsel. They said we are within our rights to do this."

Councilwoman Millet stated, "Excuse me Paul, I did not understand what this is that we are talking about?"

Paul Oncale stated, "Back in April, we took under advisement some bunker gear for the fire department and the lowest bidder didn't meet our specifications. Therefore I would like to throw that bid out and award it to the highest bidder, which is BGS Services. That was the only two bidders we had."

Councilwoman Hotard arrived at 6:23 PM

Councilwoman Millet asked, "This is for all the firemen?"

Paul Oncale stated, "This is for the paid firefighters."

Councilman Lee stated, "In discussion, Paul please if this came at the last minute contact us on these things rather than bring up a bid that we looked at back in April. That is the bottom line. I am not interested in discussing it. I know it is important. I know you needed it tonight that is why you did it, but you could have presented it in a little different fashion because it is not on our administrative report. There is no recommendation from administration unless I am missing it."

Paul Oncale stated, "The determination came in after the agenda was made."

Councilman Lee stated, "That is my point. If it was that important, then it was important enough for you to have someone in your office call us and tell us what you would like to do at the meeting. That is what I am asking you to do in the future. I think it is reasonable."

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to accept the bid from BGS for \$57,450.00 for bunker gear for the paid firemen. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Bill Hubbard - 9th Annual July 3rd Fireworks Celebration Contract

Pat McTopy, Chief Administrative Officer, stated, "This is a renewal of the contract for the fireworks display for the 4th of July. The only change that we have over what was presented to the council in the agenda book is that the venue. If there was any court action in Pennsylvania and we did not want to have to go there to defend ourselves if the situation arose, so the venue has been changed to Louisiana."

Councilman Smith asked, "I know there was an increase in this year's contract. What is the increase, just for public information?"

Pat McTopy stated, "Last year it was \$20,000.00. This year it is \$30,000.00. I am told that the increase is due to three factors. One there was a large explosion at a big fireworks factory in China, secondly they are going to give us a little bit better display this year than in the years past and finally their insurance went up. There is a lawsuit that has been filed as a result of an accident that occurred last year."

MOTION: Councilman Lewis moved and Councilman Millet seconded the motion to authorize administration to sign the contract for the Fireworks Celebration. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Pat McTopy - Janitorial Contracts

Pat McTopy stated, "We have not finalized negotiations with the two janitors servicing all of the parish buildings. We are in the process of continuing negotiations with them. We ask that we not take any action tonight."

Councilman Smith stated, "We will just carry this over for you Mr. McTopy."

Any and all other financial concerns

Councilwoman Millet stated, "I do have a concern. I have been informed that we have our trucks that pick up the limbs; one of them is almost out of service and one of them is working. I would like to ask administration to see about replacing that one truck that is not working so that these tree limbs can be picked up on a timely basis. I would like to make a motion to have that done. A motion to replace the broken truck."

Bill Hubbard asked, "A motion to amend the budget as necessary in the future to pay for the expense of a new truck?"

Councilwoman Millet stated, "We need to see what the costs are first."

Councilwoman Hotard stated, "Well maybe the motion should be to ask to ask administration to seek proposals in the purchasing a new vehicle."

MOTION: Councilwoman Millet moved and Councilwoman Usry seconded the motion to authorize administration to seek proposals for the purchase of a new vehicle for tree limb pick up. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.

Adjournment

MOTION: Councilwoman Usry moved and Councilman Julien seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilman Wolfe absent.