

## TOWN COUNCIL

### STAFF REPORT

#### Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	June 10, 2025
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Approval to Authorize a Construction Contract with Nix Construction Company, Inc. for Construction of the New River Linear Trail (Fiscal Impact: \$4,108,518.11)
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	Pat Rooney, Manager Capital Improvements Program

**REQUEST:** Staff requests Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract (Attachment 2) with Nix Construction Company, Inc. (Nix) for \$3,423,765.09 for construction of the New River Linear Trail phases 1 and 2. Additionally, Staff requests a 20% contingency allowance of \$684,753.02 to cover any unforeseen changes that may arise during construction.

The total fiscal impact for the Trail construction is \$4,108,518.11 and is within the proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and illustrated on the attached Project Data Sheet (Attachment 3).

#### **BACKGROUND:**

With the approval of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Strategic Plan and proposed Fiscal year 2026 Budget, Town staff completed the design and construction documents for the New River Linear Trail to include the 3.2 mile 10' paved path for accessibility, covered pier and reconstruction of three bridges.

The bidding process was performed in accordance with the Town's Purchasing Ordinance including required public notice, a formal Invitation for Bid (IFB) posted on the Town's Vendor Registry, bid opening and bid reviews for the lowest priced, qualified, responsive and responsible offeror.

The bid opening was held on 5/1/2025 with two bidders providing complete and responsive bids including:

- Nix Construction Company, Inc. \$3,423,765.09
- Polivka International Company, Inc. \$4,994,054.15

Nix Construction Company, Inc. was determined to be the lowest priced, qualified, responsive and responsible bidder.

**NEXT STEPS:** Upon approval of this contract, Staff will initiate a pre-construction meeting and plan to commence construction in July 2025, with an approximate 300-day construction period, subject to inclement weather.

**SUMMARY:** This project originated from the Town of Bluffton's 2021-2022 Strategic Plan. It is supportive of the following Strategic Plan Guiding Principles:

- *Community Quality of Life Guiding Principle #5.* Foster and support place-based initiatives and evaluate community policies, programs, gathering spaces, and events that promote healthy and quality lifestyles for our diverse citizenry.
- *Infrastructure Guiding Principle #3.* Establish long-term planning, prioritization and investment strategies for future infrastructure and facilities that improve the quality of life for citizens while being financially sustainable.

Staff is requesting Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed contract with Nix Construction Company, Inc.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Presentation
2. Draft Contract
3. Project Data Sheet
4. Proposed Motion