
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

FROM: Richard B. Abernethy, Administrative Services Director

MEETING: May 6, 2024

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction on the City's Newspaper Services for public and legal notices. (Staff Contact: Richard Abernethy, Administrative Services Director)

SUMMARY:

The City relies on local newspapers for publishing legal and public notices mandated by state law, covering competitive bids, election notices, developments, and public hearings for budget adoption.

Despite a renegotiated contract with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram (i.e. McClatchy) in 2021, costs have neared the \$50,000 threshold outlined in the Local Government Code and City Council Policy 36. This would require the city to competitively bid this service or find another procurement method such as a purchasing cooperative. Additionally, contracted prices with McClatchy are not competitive compared to neighboring cities.

Staff have explored options to save costs while adhering to state procurement laws. Three main options include: competitively bidding the newspaper service with primary and secondary newspaper choices, maintaining the current contract with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram while monitoring spending, or retaining the Fort Worth Star-Telegram while also utilizing the Cleburne Review Times for less prominent advertisements.

This item was presented to the City Council Policy and Valuation Committee on Wednesday, April 17th. The consensus was to competitively bid this service with the objective of selecting a primary and secondary newspaper for publishing legal notices.

RECOMMENDATION:

Competitively bid the newspaper service with the objective of selecting a primary and secondary newspaper for publishing legal notices.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

April 17, 2024 – the City Council Policy and Valuation Committee received a report, held a discussion, and provided staff feedback regarding newspaper services for publishing legal notices.

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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