



Staff Report

March 2nd, 2026 Council Workshop Meeting

Professional Services Agreement for Parallel STEP Main Design
Presenter: Rob Charles, Utilities Manager
Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The City utilizes competitively procured, Council-approved on-call professional services contracts to support utility capital planning, design, and project development. These on-call contracts are structured as a rotation list among qualified firms, including Gray & Osborne, Wallis, and Consor, and allow staff to efficiently assign task orders for specialized utility projects based on project needs, firm expertise, and workload availability. The proposed agreement with Gray & Osborne is issued under this existing on-call framework and does not represent a new consultant selection.

The City's Septic Tank Effluent Pump System (STEP) Main is a critical piece of wastewater infrastructure that conveys domestic, commercial, and industrial flows from west Camas to the north and ultimately to the wastewater treatment system. The existing STEP Main is approximately 36,940 feet in length and was largely constructed in the mid-1980s using thin-walled PVC pipe. Due to its age, material type, and lack of access points for inspection or cleaning, the City has limited ability to assess internal pipe condition or address operational issues without risk of damage or service disruption.

A portion of the STEP Main along Lake Road has experienced scaling concerns, defined as the buildup of hardened mineral deposits on the inside of the pipe that reduce flow capacity and increase the risk of blockages. Given these factors, staff has identified the need to proactively plan for phased replacement of the STEP Main and to introduce parallel infrastructure that provides operational redundancy. Installing a parallel main allows flows to be diverted during maintenance or future rehabilitation activities, significantly reducing the risk of a system failure.

This task order initiates design for the first priority segment of the STEP Main, located between NW Jackson Street and NW Friberg-Strunk Street, an area identified as having elevated risk and operational sensitivity. The proposed scope is limited to professional design services and will position the City to make informed decisions regarding future construction phasing, costs, and scheduling.

SUMMARY: This item authorizes a professional services task order with Gray & Osborne, issued under the City's existing on-call utility engineering contract, to complete design for the first phase of a parallel STEP Main replacement. The design effort will focus on approximately

4,500 feet of pipeline between NW Jackson Street and NW Friberg-Strunk Street, an area identified as having elevated operational risk.

The proposed scope includes development of predesign documentation, surveying, utility coordination, permitting support, and preparation of construction-ready plans, specifications, and cost estimates. This work will allow the City to advance a phased replacement strategy, improve system reliability, and reduce the risk of service disruptions associated with the aging STEP Main. No construction is authorized as part of this action.



Figure 1: Project Location Map this is the format to name your image. If there will only be one image, there's no need to number it. Delete if not necessary.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: Designing a parallel STEP Main improves the reliability of the City's wastewater system by reducing the risk of service disruptions associated with aging infrastructure. A redundant pipeline allows flows to be safely diverted during maintenance or future rehabilitation, helping ensure continuous service to residents and businesses. Advancing the project in phases allows the City to better manage costs, coordinate future construction, and avoid emergency repairs. Proactively addressing high-risk segments also helps protect public health and nearby waterways.

STRATEGIC PLAN: This project aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal of Stewardship of City Assets.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: Since there are many utilities, both private and public in Lake Road, fitting a new 24 inch or larger main in the road may be a challenge.

BUDGET IMPACT: The proposed Professional Services Agreement with Grey and Osborne is in an amount not to exceed \$348,000 and will be funded from the Sewer Fund. Sufficient funds are available within the current budget:

Budget:

Parallel STEP Main Replacement (2026 Capital Budget)	\$350,000
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Expenses:

Grey and Osborne PSA	\$348,000
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RECOMMENDATION: Staff would recommend this item be placed on the March 16, 2026 Regular Council Consent Agenda for their consideration.