

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

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| TO: | Mayor and Councilors |
| AGENDA SUBJECT: | Web Hosting Services for the Board of Tax Assessors |
| INITIATED BY: | Finance Department |

It is requested that Council authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Schneider Geospatial/*qPublic LLC* (Indianapolis, Indiana) to provide web hosting services for the Board of Tax Assessors. There is no cost to the City for this service. The term of the agreement is from the effective date until June 30, 2021. The City is utilizing cooperative purchasing to enter into this agreement via RFP #1181-P: GIS Website, issued by Fayette County, GA.

The Agreement shall automatically renew for up to three (3) successive terms which consist of a twelve (12) month period, subject to earlier termination as set forth in the Agreement or upon written notification by either party, thirty (30) days prior to the end of a term. If, for any reason, the Agreement is terminated prior to the end of a term, a termination fee shall be invoiced by Schneider Geospatial/*qPublic LLC* and paid by the City per the following Termination Fee Schedule:

- Year 1 – Termination effective between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 - \$12,960.00
- Year 2 - Termination effective between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 - \$9,718.50
- Year 3 – Termination effective between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 - \$6,477.00
- Year 4 – Termination effective between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 - \$3,235.50

Per Resolution 193-14, the Board of Tax Assessors utilized *qPublic* to provide webhosting services, which provided public access to Tax Assessors’ data, from June 2014 – June 2017. In 2017, in conjunction with the migration of Tax Assessor records to Tyler Technologies’ IasWorld, a new public-facing website version of the new software would take the place of *qPublic*. At that time, it was also decided that any other gaps in fulfilling the need for web-based land records could be handled in-house and without the involvement of an additional vendor.

At the June 23, 2020 Council Meeting, the Chief Appraiser reported that a ransomware attack had infiltrated and disabled the free public access website. The site was brought back up with limited functionality on June 19, 2020; however, there is no estimated time as to when the site will be fully functional. As a result, the Tax Assessor’s Office has received numerous requests from the public to again offer *qPublic* as an option. Once the *qPublic* website is up and running, both the free public access website and the *qPublic* website will be available for public use.

qPublic offers a complete turn-key system for distributing public records on-line, making it available to the public in the form of a searchable database. This service will be accessible to homeowners, realtors, fee appraisers, surveyors, title companies, lawyers, tax accountants, and others. The system typically updates no less than weekly and potentially nightly. *qPublic* is

already widely used by other counties throughout Georgia and is very user friendly. Additionally, the vendor offers seamless integration with Tyler Technologies' IasWorld software system.

General information is free to everyone that uses the site to search for Name, Parcel ID, Address etc. The user who wants information about sales in a given neighborhood, maps and more in-depth information, will be required to pay a subscription fee to **qPublic**. Subscriptions can vary from usage, daily, monthly or yearly. The average monthly subscription is approximately \$20 and a usage based subscription fee is approximately \$10 for 5 reports.

The City will utilize cooperative purchasing to enter into this agreement and piggy-back on RFP #1181-P: GIS Website, issued by Fayette County, Georgia in 2017, whereby Schneider Corporation dba **qPublic** was the awarded vendor for a five-year contract. The following six vendors submitted proposals: Alindus, Inc., Bruce Harris & Associates, Cartographic Associates dba CAI Tech., The Schneider Corporation, Timmons Group and Worldview Solutions, Inc. Per the evaluation results The Schneider Corporation was the highest ranking vendor. The vendor is providing the same services required by the Board of Tax Assessors and the RFP process followed by Fayette County is comparable to the City's RFP process. Additionally, The Schneider Corporation provides these services for the majority of the counties in Georgia.

In the event the contract is terminated prior to the end of a term, the termination fee shall be paid from the applicable fiscal year budget: General Fund – Board of Tax Assessors – Tax Assessors – Contractual Services; 0101 – 290 -1000 –TAXA – 6319.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHNEIDER GEOSPATIAL/*QPUBLIC LLC* (INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA) TO PROVIDE WEB HOSTING SERVICES FOR THE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS. THERE IS NO COST TO THE CITY FOR THIS SERVICE. THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT IS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2021. THE CITY IS UTILIZING COOPERATIVE PURCHASING TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT VIA RFP #1181-P: GIS WEBSITE, ISSUED BY FAYETTE COUNTY, GA. THE AGREEMENT SHALL AUTOMATICALLY RENEW FOR UP TO THREE (3) SUCCESSIVE TERMS WHICH CONSIST OF A TWELVE (12) MONTH PERIOD, SUBJECT TO EARLIER TERMINATION AS SET FORTH IN THE AGREEMENT OR UPON WRITTEN NOTIFICATION BY EITHER PARTY, THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO THE END OF A TERM. IF, FOR ANY REASON, THE AGREEMENT IS TERMINATED PRIOR TO THE END OF A TERM, A TERMINATION FEE SHALL BE INVOICED BY SCHNEIDER GEOSPATIAL/*QPUBLIC LLC* AND PAID BY THE CITY PER THE FOLLOWING TERMINATION FEE SCHEDULE:

- YEAR 1 – TERMINATION EFFECTIVE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2020 AND JUNE 30, 2021 - \$12,960.00**
- YEAR 2 - TERMINATION EFFECTIVE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2022 – \$9,718.50**
- YEAR 3 – TERMINATION EFFECTIVE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022 AND JUNE 30, 2023 - \$6,477.00**
- YEAR 4 – TERMINATION EFFECTIVE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2023 AND JUNE 30, 2024 - \$3,2350.50**

WHEREAS, per Resolution 193-14, the Board of Tax Assessors utilized *qPublic* to provide webhosting services, which provided public access to Tax Assessors’ data, from June 2014 – June 2017. In 2017, in conjunction with the migration of Tax Assessor records to Tyler Technologies’ IasWorld, a new public-facing website version of the new software would take the place of *qPublic*. At that time, it was also decided that any other gaps in fulfilling the need for web-based land records could be handled in-house and without the involvement of an additional vendor; and,

WHEREAS, at the June 23, 2020 Council Meeting, the Chief Appraiser reported that a ransomware attack had infiltrated and disabled the public access website. The site was brought back up with limited functionality on June 19, 2020; however, there is no estimated time as to when the site will be fully functional. As a result, the office has received numerous requests from the public to again offer *qPublic* as an option. *qPublic* offers a complete turn-key system for distributing public records on-line making it available to the public in the form of a searchable database. This service will be accessible to homeowners, realtors, fee appraisers, surveyors, title companies, lawyers, tax accountants, and others. The system typically updates no less than weekly and potentially nightly. *qPublic* is already widely used by other counties throughout Georgia and is very user friendly. Additionally, the vendor offers seamless integration with Tyler Technologies’ IasWorld software system; and,

WHEREAS, general information is free to everyone that uses the site to search for Name, Parcel ID, and Address, etc. The user who wants information about sales in a given neighborhood, maps and more in-depth information, will be required to pay a subscription fee to

qPublic. Subscriptions can vary from usage, daily, monthly or yearly. The average monthly subscription is approximately \$20 and a usage based subscription fee is approximately \$10 for 5 reports; and,

WHEREAS, the City will utilize cooperative purchasing to enter into this agreement and piggy-back on RFP #1181-P: GIS Website, issued by Fayette County, Georgia in 2017, whereby Schneider Corporation dba **qPublic** was the awarded vendor for a five-year contract. The following six vendors submitted proposals: Alindus, Inc., Bruce Harris & Associates, Cartographic Associates dba CAI Tech., The Schneider Corporation, Timmons Group and Worldview Solutions, Inc. Per the evaluation results The Schneider Corporation was the highest ranking vendor. The vendor is providing the same services required by the Board of Tax Assessors and the RFP process followed by Fayette County is comparable to the City’s RFP process. Additionally, The Schneider Corporation provides these services for the majority of the counties in Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized the City Manager to sign an agreement with Schneider Geospatial/**qPublic LLC** (Indianapolis, Indiana) to provide web hosting services for the Board of Tax Assessors. There is no cost to the City for this service. The term of the agreement is from the effective date until June 30, 2021. The City is utilizing cooperative purchasing to enter into this agreement via RFP #1181-P: GIS Website, issued by Fayette County, GA. The Agreement shall automatically renew for up to three (3) successive terms which consist of a twelve (12) month period, subject to earlier termination as set forth in the Agreement or upon written notification by either party, thirty (30) days prior to the end of a term. If, for any reason, the Agreement is terminated prior to the end of a term, a termination fee shall be invoiced by Schneider Geospatial/**qPublic LLC** and paid by the City per the following Termination Fee Schedule:

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In the event the contract is terminated prior to the end of a term, the termination fee shall be paid from the applicable fiscal year budget: General Fund – Board of Tax Assessors – Tax Assessors – Contractual Services; 0101 – 290 -1000 –TAXA – 6319.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2020 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.

Councilor House voting _____.
Councilor Huff voting _____.
Councilor Thomas voting _____.
Councilor Thompson voting _____.
Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor