



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 27, 2023

To: Ryan T. Eggleston, City Manager

From: Stacie Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director

Subject: Single Source Purchase – Geothermal Heater and Chiller Units

Section 2-253 of the current code allows for single source purchases to be made by the city. The definition is defined in the code as: refers to a supply source for goods or services which purchases are directed because of issues related to standardization, warranty or other factors, even though other competitive sources may be available. In section 2-258 (b) (1) further elaborates on single source purchases as:

A contract may be awarded for a supply, service or construction item without competition when the purchasing agent or a designee determines in writing that there is only one economically feasible source for the required supply, service or construction item, or when requirements for standardization, warranty, geographic and territorial restrictions, or other factors create a situation where competition is either not feasible or practicable.

Based on these guidelines, the purchase of the geothermal thermal heater and chiller units from Symbiont Services Corporation are a single source purchase. The current units at the facility are Geothermal Units. Geothermal provides the ability to adequately maintain water temperature of the pool. This not only applies to heating, but also to cooling. Elevated pool temperatures can lead to infections harvesting in the pool and unsanitary swimming conditions.

Pool heaters can be purchased separately. This would then require a purchase of a chiller system to be acquired separately. At this time, there is not a reputable company in the industry that manufactures or sells chiller units only. The geothermal units were created by Symbiont Services and AquaCal is the sole manufacture for Symbiont Services Corporation. If other pool companies were to purchase the units from AquaCal, they would be purchasing the same units the City is acquiring, potentially with an upcharge.

Purchasing directly from Symbiont Services, we would be purchasing directly from the manufacture. Additionally, Symbiont Services Corporation is the only company in the state that is able to repair the units. If in the event the units were purchased from another company, Symbiont Services would be the responding company for repairs. If another company was called in for repairs, all warranties would be voided.

The units at the facility are geothermal and have surpassed their lifespan of over 15 years. Given that our facility already operates on a geothermal system, standardizing the same geothermal technology for the replacement units will ensure seamless integration with our current infrastructure. Furthermore, familiarity with the existing system will expedite staff training and reduce potential downtime during the transition. It is the recommendation to maintain the same system in place to be able to adequately regulate the pool water temperature. This single source purchase aligns with our commitment to providing a high-quality recreational experience for our community while ensuring the longevity and efficiency of our recreational facilities.