



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of November 13, 2023

Title/Subject

Resolution 2298- Contract Award: Water Service Line Inventory.

Summary and Background

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required all public drinking water agencies in the country to conduct an inventory of their systems to determine the prevalence of potential lead and copper in water service lines serving residences. The process for developing this inventory requires excavating directly in front of, and directly behind the meter box and physically performing a scratch-test and magnetism test and recording the results. At this point, no further action is required other than to inventory the issue and report the results to the EPA no later than October 1, 2024.

Initial concerns about the scope of this task have been moderately addressed due to two factors.

1. Because of restrictions on the type of material allowed in plumbing beginning in 1986, water systems can forego testing on any residences constructed after 1986.
2. Since the intent is to quantify the scope of potential issues nationwide, EPA has allowed systems to employ a statistical sampling method which provides 98% confidence in materials throughout the entire system.

These allowances mean that, out of the approximately 5,200 residential water meters in Hermiston, only 2,800 pre-date 1986. Of those 2,800 pre-1986 meters, only 350 will be randomly selected for physical inspection in order to return a 98% confident analysis of materials present throughout the City.

The process to excavate and inspect these lines will be slightly disruptive, but ultimately limited to two 2' diameter holes immediately in front of, and behind, each meter box. The disruption must be repaired upon completion. It was initially considered to utilize existing City Utility Staff to perform this task by utilizing the Sewer Department's Vactor Truck to hydro-excavate. However, due to the scope of the need, it was determined that this process would divert existing staff and equipment from regular duties too much.

Tie-In to Council Goals

FOCUS AREA Wellness: a healthy Community

FOCUS AREA City Facilities: Public facilities that meet the community needs of today and the future

Fiscal Information

The project was broadly advertised with bids opened on November 7, 2023 and the following bids received:

- North Cascade Excavating: \$198,715.00
- *Engineer's Estimate*: \$250,000.00
- Exo Contracting: \$308,821.04
- Jesse Rodriguez Construction: \$436,165.00
- John M. Thompson Excavating: \$439,422.50
- Angelo Underground: \$545,165.00

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

- Approve Resolution 2298 and award to North Cascade Excavating.
- Reject all bids and re-advertise

Recommended Action/Motion

Motion to approve Resolution 2298

Submitted By:

Mark Morgan