



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of October 23, 2023

Title/Subject

Resolution 2294- Contract Award North Hermiston Drain Piping

Summary and Background

This resolution will award a contract for trenching and installing approximately 1,340 feet of large 42” perforated drainage pipe. This work will “bury” the historically open drainage ditch located approximately between Theater Sports Park, Theater Lane, and Kopacz Nursery.

This project was initiated in early 2020 in response to neighborhood complaints about transient activity taking place in the overgrown areas surrounding the drainage. The drainage exists as an easement held by the US Bureau of Reclamation (DBA Hermiston Irrigation District (HID)) located on property owned by the City and Kopacz Nursery.

HID staff had long responded to requests from the City about piping various water courses with the proposal that if the City purchases the pipe, then HID staff would install it. Follow-up discussions with HID staff about this section of the drain was met with the same response. City staff then initiated a design process with Anderson Perry to appropriately pipe this drainage due to its unique relationship with groundwater, and specifically supplying Well #5 in that vicinity.

Upon completion of a piping design, city staff worked with the owners of Kopacz Nursery to trade a previously unusable sliver of property to the City in exchange for the City purchasing the pipe, and having the drain buried. This was a win-win, since the sliver of property Kopacz had owned was completely covered by drainage easement and has been underwater, but upon piping, it will allow for Theater Sports Park to connect directly to Theater Lane and accommodate park expansion. Meanwhile, the piping will also make more of the Kopacz property usable once the drainage is piped.

The design, and real estate acquisition work was completed by late 2020. Between 2020 and winter 2022/2023 City staff made multiple attempts to get HID to begin installation. Based on their continued assertions that they just needed to schedule the installation, the city acquired all of the necessary pipe. Finally in winter 2022/2023, HID began installation and shortly after beginning work HID had a major piece of equipment break down and get stuck in the drainage ditch. Directly after that they informed the city that they would not be able to complete the work. They did not include in that communication any willingness to assist us in completing this previously “joint project”.

Due to the loss of the ability to install the piping at no cost, City Staff considered all options available, including abandoning the project all-together, and liquidating the pipe which had already been purchased. Unfortunately, due to the highly unique characteristics of the pipe (large 42" & Perforated to allow water in and out), any liquidation effort would yield virtually no return of the investment. Additionally, in anticipation of HID performing the work, the City had more than 10,000 cubic yards of fill-dirt imported and deposited on Kopacz property; which would need to be removed if the project were abandoned.

To proceed with the project, Anderson Perry estimated a contractor could perform the pipe installation and covering of the pipe with minimal cover, for a cost of \$150,000 to \$175,000. AP further estimated that to have a private contractor move all of the stockpiled fill dirt to bring the drainage up to flush with surrounding ground would be approximately an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000. However, it was determined that City crews (Street, Water, Sewer, Parks) could, with considerable time-commitment pulling them from other duties, do the material moving portion and save that out of pocket cost.

This contract, therefore, is simply for a contractor to perform the in-water work of installing and minimally covering the pipe throughout the Winter, with City Crews completing the dirt moving/covering process through the Spring of 2024.

Tie-In to Council Goals

N/A

Fiscal Information

The following bids were received:

- Odyssey Contracting: \$157,000
- *Engineer's Estimate*: \$175,000
- JQ Construction: \$214,785
- James Dean Construction: \$328,150
- Culbert Construction: \$334,340
- Premier Excavation: \$369,000
- Beam Excavating: \$599,806

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Award contract to Odyssey Contracting
2. Reject all-bids and re-advertise

Recommended Action/Motion

Motion to approve Resolution 2294

Submitted By:

Mark Morgan