



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 14, 2024

**ITEM TITLE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Street West Reconstruction Project – RAISE Grant

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### **BACKGROUND:**

This item was discussed at the October 7, 2024, Work Session.

As Staff has worked through attempting to maximize funding for projects, we believe that applying for a RAISE Grant is appropriate. We can utilize the funding allocated for 1<sup>st</sup> Street West through STBG and INRCOG as our match for the RAISE grant and maximize the funding for a larger project. To do so, though, we must engage a firm to assist with the application, and that is what this item is regarding.

I asked Ritland & Kuper, the architects who did the Community Visioning Study for the City, to prepare a proposal for assistance with this work as we discussed options for moving forward. Because of the specifics required in the RAISE grant, an engineer is also needed to assist, and AECOM has been engaged for that purpose.

### **DISCUSSION:**

As we discussed during the work session, the Ritland & Kuper and AECOM team has succeeded in other areas in northeast Iowa, obtaining sizable RAISE grants. Staff believes this is the best option to give the City the best chance to obtain this grant. It's also worth pointing out that there is a chance that the City may not obtain this grant during the first attempt. While this proposal has a cost of \$159,000, it was discussed during the Work Session that subsequent attempts would cost considerably less as most of the work to apply would already be completed and would just need to be updated. Additionally, INRCOG has confirmed that the STBG funding can be moved back if necessary to align with the RAISE grant.

### **RESULTS:**

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Developing and Reviving Independence. This item helps achieve that vision by working to redevelop a critical area of 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

Funds for this proposal can be taken from the 2023 bond issuance proceeds that the City was holding for the IPF Stormwater project, and then the City can include that amount in a future bond issuance.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign Ritland & Kuper's proposal for 1<sup>st</sup> Street West Corridor Improvements.