

ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM MEMO
REGULAR MEETING

SUBJECT: Ordinance Awarding a Contract to TAPP, Inc for the Purchase of Steel Poles.

Staff Contact: Blake Toliver Director of Electric Operations

Summary: Bids were received on November 13, 2025, for the purchase of steel transmission poles associated with the Ritchie Road to Centerpoint Line Project. The project was publicly advertised on 10/17/25, and bid notifications were distributed to ten potential vendors, resulting in three qualified submissions.

The bid results were as follows:

Vendor	Bid Total	Lead Time
MVA Power	\$1,297,702.46	26 Weeks
TAPP, Inc.	\$1,475,246.00	64–65 Weeks
ROHN Products	\$2,115,800.00	42–46 Weeks

Analysis

MVA Power submitted the apparent low bid with no major specification exceptions and an acceptable schedule. However, subsequent vendor review revealed that although MVA is based in Canada, the poles would be manufactured in China. This presents heightened concerns related to material quality control, overseas shipping reliability, and exposure to potential tariff cost fluctuations.

BHMG Engineers conducted interviews and contacted project references for MVA Power. While none of the reported issues were catastrophic, they were notable enough to present risk to the City on a critical infrastructure project. Conversely, TAPP, Inc. has strong demonstrated experience with similar steel pole projects and is regarded as a reliable supplier. TAPP has also committed to shipping standard and WPE poles early to help support construction phasing. The current project schedule can accommodate TAPP's longer overall lead time.

Funding Sources:

Source:	Budgeted Amount:	Proposed Expenditure:
Electric Funds		\$1,475,246.00

Strategic Plan Goal Application: CORE service Delivery

Recommendation: Approve an Ordinance Awarding a Contract to TAPP, Inc for the Purchase of Steel Poles.