

**City of Coral Gables City Commission
Agenda Item C-3
September 23, 2014
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Patricia Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

Acting Interim City Manager, Cynthia Birdsill

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Glenn Kephart, Public Works Director

Michael Pounds, Chief Procurement Officer

Public Speakers:

C-3 [Start: 11:17:28 AM]

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER TO AWARD THE CHANNEL
MARKER REPLACEMENT CONTRACT TO DOCK AND MARINE
CONSTRUCTION, PURSUANT TO INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
2014.08.07, AND SECTION 2-828 OF THE PROCUREMENT CODE
ENTITLED "CONTRACT AWARD".

Mayor Cason: C-3.

Commissioner Keon: Go ahead.

Commissioner Lago: Well, Commissioner Keon and myself, we just want to

request further information. I think we have the same information in regards to C-3. If I could have someone from Procurement or...sir, come up. Having a little bit of involvement in the design and construction industry, I was a little bit concerned about one thing, and that is the responsiveness in reference to bidders. I mean, we only had one responsive bidder on a \$45,000 contract?

Glenn Kephart: Yeah, and this is the third time that this has happened. This was put out to bid in 2010, and same thing; we got one bid, and it's very comparable to this. Our utility's engineer, Jorge Acevedo, has reviewed this and looked at the previous bid and thought that it was in the range of reasonableness. Now, when we put it out this time, initially we didn't get any bids; and we put it out again, and we got a bid from the same company who bid in 2010, and given the magnitude of what they need to do with the replacing 11 piles, taking the existing ones out, putting new ones in. And the importance of this project, from a safety standpoint, to have these channels properly delineated, we felt that at the 45,000 that we have a company that we know that can do the work and this is what they do, that it was worthwhile bringing forward, although, we would desire to have several bids, but we don't.

Commissioner Lago: Let me just ask you a quick question, because, you know, obviously we're in a very competitive marketplace right now and, you know, construction is up, but there's a lot of firms that are looking for work. So, you know, \$45,000 is a healthy contract.

Mr. Kephart: It is.

Commissioner Lago: Especially when you're talking about channel markers and marine work that needs to be done. Do you think that we could do something for the near future if we have to go out to bid? Maybe we can apply it to our future procurement efforts to see if maybe we can get more competitiveness. Because if we're handing out \$45,300, you know, I want to make sure that we can have as

many firms provide prices, or maybe we can lower that amount.

Mr. Pounds: We have a lot of construction firms that monitor our web site. We did a mailing to selected firms who do this kind of work, but we have our normal group of construction firms that monitor this. I think this is the type of work that's fairly specialized that a lot of our contractors are not able to, do not have the expertise. They don't have the equipment to do. I think it's a main -- or the main problem is it's fairly specialized work.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I mean, you had -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

Commissioner Keon: I'm sorry, I pulled it for the same reason. It is specialized work, so I think you would have the number of firms that could do other -- maybe general contracting. But considering the amount of co-sign we have and the amount of markers there are all over that bay and all over the channels coming from Haulover all the way south, you know, through the Keys, it's hard to believe that there's only one firm that does that. I mean, I would think that there are multiple firms that do this type of work in South Florida or even in -- I mean, in our Dade/Broward area.

Commissioner Lago: Well, you're right. Well, you're right.

Commissioner Keon: Monroe. I mean, if you look at Dade, Broward and Monroe, the number of -- there has to be -- or I would think. I don't know. But I would think that there would be a number of firms that would do this work; that if you, you know, had to go out and compile a list of firms so that you do get a competitive bid, that -- I don't know how you would do that and what our Procurement Code allows for in doing that.

Mr. Pounds: Public Works and Procurement did some research and that list of eight was the firms that we came up with. I agree, you would think that there

would be a large number of firms that would be out there in South Florida that would be interested.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Mr. Pounds: This is a fairly small project that might be an inhibiting factor, you know. You may have firms that are in other counties that it's not worth it to them to stage for a relatively small project. I don't know what the factors are, but this has been the outcome in three different --

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: There's really -- let me just stop you, because I have two pilings that I just put in myself. There's just not that many firms that do it. There's Glen Lawson, I think, that -- is it Glen Lawson the -- yeah, yeah, yeah. He's one that specializes in it. I mean, you have to have a --

Commissioner Quesada: He has done fifty percent of the docks.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I know. You have to have a huge barge you put it in. It's just not an easy process to do. It's just --

Mayor Cason: Are there any firms who are specialists in pile driving on the -- marine pile driving?

Mr. Pounds: Well, the thing is that eight firms were capable of doing --

Mayor Cason: So they weren't interested? They didn't come back seven of them, so...

Mr. Leen: I will tell you that we did a project for Seawall a few months ago. We didn't get a significant number of bidders for that, and that was over \$100,000 project.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I'm concerned with -- you said the safety and going ahead with the \$45,000 project I'm all for.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah, I don't have a problem with you doing it. I'm just surprised that you only got one bid and wondered if, you know, going forward, you would, you know, try and make --

Mayor Cason: Hopefully more will come forward.

Commissioner Keon: -- build that pool of bidders in some way.

Mr. Kephart: Thank you for that, and we share the same concern, but --

Commissioner Keon: OK.

Mr. Kephart: -- we do think that the project is a good project.

Commissioner Keon: Absolutely.

Mr. Kephart: We have a good firm that can do it and would recommend moving forward. Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Thank you very much.

Mayor Cason: We have a motion on C-3?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So moved.

Commissioner Lago: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes the motion; Commissioner Lago seconds it. City Clerk.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes.

Mayor Cason: Yes.