



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Finance Committee

From: Rich Olson, City Manager

Date: April 8, 2014

Re: Consideration – Cemetery Mowing Contract for FY 14-15

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the City of Elizabeth City contracts with a local company for the maintenance (grass cutting and removal of debris) for the eight (8) cemeteries located within the City. These cemeteries are Old Hollywood (Road Street and Peartree Road), Old Oak Grove (Peartree Road), Highland Park (Peartree Road), Episcopal (Ehringhaus Street and Shepherd Street), Love/Burke (Hughes Blvd. and Burke Street), First Baptist Church (Colonial Avenue), Culpepper (Culpepper Street) and Herrington Road and "B" Street. Sunshine of Elizabeth City (formerly M & W Farms) was awarded the contract in 1988 for \$39,000 and it remained at that price until 2007 when a new section of Old Oak Grove was added to the contract. The contract price was then increased to \$42,000 and remained at that price until 2012.

Staff was instructed by the Council to advertise the cemetery contract for FY 2012-2013. Staff did modify the 2012-13 bids slightly to reflect the community's wishes of not spraying round-up around grave markers/headstones. Five bids were received and ranged in prices from \$41,999 to \$127,500.

ANALYSIS:

There has been discussion at the City Council level concerning Pasquotank County paying for a part of the costs to maintain the cemeteries. Staff has completed its research concerning the conveyance of the cemeteries to the City in the late 1950's and mid-1960's. It appears that the City Council formally accepted the conveyance of the three largest cemeteries. Staff believes we should discuss with Pasquotank County partial funding of the cemetery budget. However, those discussions are separate and apart from the cemetery mowing contact that you have before you with this agenda request.

K-9 Lawn Care received the 2012-13 cemetery bid contract at a price of \$41,999. We have been extremely pleased with the services we have received from K-9. Our cemeteries have been very well maintained and we receive compliments from the community about how well they look. K-9 is extremely conscious of ground maintenance near grave markers/headstones. K-9 has sprayed for weeds and treated for fire ants each year at no additional expense to the City. This attention to detail has given our cemeteries a much better appearance. K-9 Lawn Care has offered to continue maintaining the eight (8) cemeteries during FY 2014-2015 for the same price of \$41,999.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council authorize the renewal of the cemetery mowing contract for FY 2014-2015 with K-9 Lawn Care for \$41,999 for the maintenance of eight cemeteries located in Elizabeth City.