

Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

01-302

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JUNE 4, 2001

SUBJECT:

**COLD MIX
ASPHALT
MATERIAL
PURCHASE**

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

SUBMITTED BY:

**WILLIAM STOWE
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR**

On March 3, 2001, the City's Public Works Department received bids on cold mix asphalt material, which is used for patching potholes prior to the availability of hot mix asphalt. Only one bid was received. Based on available inventory, the sole bid, which had escalated due to high petroleum prices, was rejected in anticipation of more competitive bids in the fall.

Unfortunately, the post-winter street surface conditions in Des Moines placed a higher-than-usual demand on the City's inventory of cold mix material. To address citizen concerns and general prevailing conditions, the Public Works Department had to purchase additional quantities of cold mix from its previous supplier, Des Moines Asphalt & Paving Company (Robert Horner, President, 903 SE 22 Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309). Prior to payment, the Public Works Department is seeking Council approval.

FISCAL IMPACT -

Total costs are calculated to be \$55,308.75. Interestingly, the cost per ton charged by Des Moines Asphalt & Paving Company (\$75/ton) was lower than their March 3, 2001, bid price of \$77/ton due to the timing and the large quantity of material purchased by the City.

Funds for the purchase of the required cold mix patching material are available in the current Public Works Department's Street Maintenance Operating Budget.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

The Public Works Department takes annual bids on asphalt materials, including cold mix material used in patching operations. Rather than award a sole bid to Des Moines Asphalt & Paving Company, which ran high due to oil prices, the street maintenance administrator concluded adequate inventories existed to await rebidding in the fall when prices would likely be more moderate.

The post-winter condition of Des Moines street surfaces was excessive due to the record number of days of snow cover and consequent freeze/thaw cycles. As a result, the amount of cold mix material required to make City streets safe and serviceable prior to the opening of the hot mix asphalt plants exceeded the quantity in inventory. Due to the large number of street surface disruptions, the amount of cold mix required to patch the streets was approximately double the amount needed in a normal season.

The Public Works Department anticipates rebidding cold mix asphalt this fall to obtain more moderate prices and to ensure an adequate inventory of material next spring.
