1. Resolution authorizing Professional Services with Geotech, Inc. for Butterworth Landfill Solar Array in the amount of $60,500 with total amount not-to-exceed $66,700

Item Number: 1

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: February 25, 2025

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Community Development Committee
LIAISON: Mary Kate Berens, Deputy City Manager

FROM: Tim Burkman, City Engineer
Engineering

SUBJECT: **Resolution authorizing Professional Services with Geotech, Inc. for Butterworth Landfill Solar Array in the amount of $60,500 with total amount not-to-exceed $66,700**

The City is seeking to secure design services for two megawatts of behind-the-meter solar that will serve the City's Primary Circuit, assistance with applicable Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) tax credits and grant requirements, and issuance and evaluation of the bid package to contract with a developer to complete design, construction and operation of the solar array. The goal is to have the site partially, if not completely, operational in 2026.

The City's commitment to renewable energy began in 2005 with the establishment of a 20% municipal renewable energy goal. The City surpassed this goal by sourcing 30% of its energy from renewable sources in 2007 and subsequently increased that goal to 100%. In Fiscal Year 2025, the City achieved its 100% goal through a combination of market-purchased renewable energy credits (RECs), Consumers Energy's renewable portfolio, and solar installations at Oak Industrial Drive and the Lake Michigan Filtration Plant. Presently, on-site behind-the-meter solar accounts for approximately 3% of the City's total energy portfolio.

The City's Strategic Plan prioritizes reduction of carbon/greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from City operations (buildings, utilities and fleet) by 85% by the year 2030 (as compared to the 2008 baseline) and achieve carbon neutrality by 2040. Just over 75% of GHG emissions from government operations are generated from the consumption of electricity. Based on preliminary modeling, it is believed that if 100% renewable electricity is achieved, GHG emissions from government operations will be reduced by approximately 80%.

There are three key strategies for the City to achieve its emissions reduction targets, which are evaluated for cost-effectiveness and overall long-term sustainability:

1) Reduce the consumption of energy through energy efficiency and other process changes.
2) Electrify vehicles and buildings to the extent possible.
3) Ensure that 100% of electricity consumed by government operations is supplied by renewable sources.

While the City will meet its 100% renewable goal through the open market in 2025, it seeks to increase locally generated renewable energy in order to maximize local GHG reduction benefits. The City's most significant on-site renewable energy generation opportunity exists at the closed Butterworth Landfill Site (the Site), a ~190-acre site closed in the early 1970s and placed on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in 1986. A final consent decree was issued in 1999, and the Site was fully remediated in 2000. The Site is located southwest of downtown, directly adjacent to the Grand River on the south and east sides and the John Ball Neighborhood, on the north side. John Ball Neighborhood is one of Grand Rapids' neighborhoods of focus – defined as census tracts with the highest percent of residents who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and the greatest disparities across all quality-of-life indicators (education, wealth, jobs, etc.).

The Site is regulated by the EPA and includes a consent decree with all identified responsible parties. The City owns about 145 acres of the former landfill. Remediation under the consent decree includes a four-foot clay cap and groundwater monitoring wells situated primarily along the perimeter of the capped areas. Any future development must be fully consistent with the Site's remedial features and institutional controls to ensure long-term access to and protection of the Site's remediation. The Site does not generate enough methane for recapture.

Since remediation was completed in 2000, the Site has been maintained as an open grass area with walking paths along the perimeter and an access road through the center providing access to the river for public safety agencies.

A request for proposals (RFP) was issued September 20, 2024, and proposals were received on October 11, 2024. Two consultant teams were interviewed, and the selection committee recommends award to Geotech, Inc. (Geotech).

The attached resolution provides for the authorization of design phase services for this project with Geotech in the amount of $60,500 and total expenditures not to exceed $66,700. This amount includes the costs for design phase services by Geotech, administration, and contingencies. Requests associated with additional project phases and services will be brought back to City Commission for approval at a future date.

Geotech will provide design phase services pursuant to their existing term agreement with the City.

This project is being financed by the Capital Improvement Fund. An accompanying budget request in the Capital Improvement Fund is necessary to finance these services and will be presented to the Fiscal Committee for consideration and approval.

cc: Doug Mathews
James Hurt
Molly Clarin

Reviewed by O.E.E.

#23078

Item Number: 1

Your COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE recommends the adoption of the following resolution awarding design phase services to Geotech, Inc. and authorizing expenditures in connection with Solar Power Array at the Butterworth Landfill.

WHEREAS, a proposal was received from Geotech, Inc. for the following project:

Solar Power Array at the Butterworth Landfill
(hereinafter referred to as the “Project”)

It is necessary to authorize design phase services pursuant to their existing term-agreement with the City in connection with the Project; therefore

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposal of Geotech be accepted and that Geotech be authorized to proceed with design phase services in connection with the Project at a cost of $60,500 with total expenditures not to exceed $66,700 which includes the design phase services by Geotech, administration, and contingencies. Said amount of $66,700 to be charged to the applicable Capital Improvement Fund Codes.

2. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be, and the same are, rescinded.

3. That the City Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to make payment, in amounts and to said payees, as the City Engineer or his designee requests in connection with the Project.

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED COSTS

for

Solar Power Array at Butterworth Landfill

Project Funding Source(s)

	Currently Approved	Budget Request(s)	Revised Project Estimate
Capital Improvement Fund	$0	$66,700	$66,700
Total Project Sources	$0	$66,700	$66,700

Breakdown of Project Uses

Design Phase Services by Geotech	$60,500
Administration	$3,025
Sub-Total	$63,525
Contingencies	3,175
Total Project Uses	$66,700