



City of Gainesville Agenda Report

File #: 2022-763

Agenda Date: December 1, 2022

Department: Gainesville Regional Utilities

Title: 2022-763 City Commission approval to execute a Professional Service Agreement for Community Engagement Consulting Services (B)

Description: GRU will be developing an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to meet future energy needs. The proposed IRP approach is based on industry best-practices and will include significant technical analysis along with public outreach in order to educate the public and receive input. GRU issued an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) to seek a public engagement firm with specialized IRP experience to assist in the public engagement for the IRP. Staff recommends that the City Commission authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Acuity Design Group (ADG) to assist in public engagement for the IRP.

Explanation:

The IRP will provide a plan to meet future energy needs over the next 20 years or more. The plan will provide a roadmap for major energy decisions such as development of new electric generation, generation retirements, electric grid improvements, and policies and programs. Major priorities affecting the IRP include the city's 2045 net-zero greenhouse gas emission goal, rate concerns, aging generation fleet, and the need to maintain reliability, financial stability, and regulatory compliance.

The IRP approach is based on industry best-practices and will include significant technical analysis and public outreach. The Energy Authority (TEA) will perform the technical analysis. TEA has significant experience in producing IRPs. GRU is a member-owner of TEA, and there will be no added cost to GRU for these services.

The approach will include broad public outreach through a variety of methods throughout the process to educate and get input from the public. The process will also include a stakeholder advisory group (SAG). SAGs are commonly used in developing IRPs, as well as in many other major planning process such as water supply plans, in order to provide robust education and input from stakeholders.

Staff proposes to contract with a public engagement firm with specialized experience in conducting IRPs to assist in developing the outreach plan, developing outreach

materials, conducting outreach, running the SAG meetings, and compiling public input for consideration in the process.

In accordance with City Purchasing Policies and Procedures, on August 10, 2022, Utilities Procurement issued an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) via the DemandStar electronic bid portal and it was broadcasted to 319 registered providers. Proposals from three providers were received. The proposals were evaluated based on a high-level plan, experience and project management. The providers were ranked and the three providers were invited to move forward with presentations. After presentations, the evaluation team selected Acuity Design Group to negotiate a professional services agreement. Having successfully completed negotiations, GRU recommends to award Acuity Design Group a professional service agreement for community engagement consulting services subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality. The final draft of the proposed professional agreement is attached for reference.

Strategic Connection:

- 1 – Equitable Community
- 2 – Sustainable Community
- 4 – Resilient Local Economy
- 5 – Best in Class Neighbor Services

Fiscal Note:

Funding for this effort has been identified in the existing FY2023 and FY2024 budget.

Recommendation:

Authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute a professional service agreement for Community Engagement Consulting Services Subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality for an amount not to exceed \$248,100 plus travel and reimbursable expenses.