



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2024-310

Agenda Date: April 18, 2024

Department: Public Works Department

Title: 2024-310 Feasibility Study with CDM Smith for an Anaerobic Digester (B)

Department: Public Works

Description: Requesting City Commission approval of a Task Assignment under the Professional Engineering, Architectural and Consulting Services Agreement with CDM Smith, Inc. to conduct an Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study.

Fiscal Note: The total cost of the study is \$500,000 of which the United States Department of Energy is providing \$400,000 via a grant and the \$100,000 match is allocated in the Solid Waste Fund.

Explanation: The purpose of the study is to assess the feasibility of anaerobic digestion in the Gainesville area. Anaerobic Digestion is the process through which bacteria break down organic matter such as animal manure, wastewater biosolids and food wastes in the absence of oxygen. The Anaerobic Digester will process biosolids (sewage sludge), food waste, fats, oils and grease and produce a renewable energy source.

If it is determined that the anaerobic digestion process is feasible, it would assist in meeting the City's Zero Waste goals by diverting food waste from the landfill and helping Gainesville Regional Utilities reach its sustainable energy goals by providing a local fuel source and reducing the City's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

CDM Smith, Inc. is one of the City's approved Professional Engineering, Architectural and Consulting Services firms. The study will commence upon execution of the Task Assignment and conclude in the fall of FY 2026.

Strategic Connection:

- ☐ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☒ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☐ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☒ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☒ Goal 5: "Best in Class" Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into a Task Assignment with CDM Smith, Inc. in the amount of \$500,000.00 to conduct an Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study, subject to approval of the City Attorney or designee as to form and legality.