

2022-0350

Request for Purchase Authorization - PLANNING: Contract/Blanket Purchase Order for Gateway and Streetscape Planning Consultant Services in the amount not-to-exceed \$103,785.00; OHM Advisors, Livonia, MI

Attachments: [081522 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[Proposal Summary.pdf](#)
[Memo to City Council.pdf](#)
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

Sara Roediger, Planning and Economic Development Director, explained that the City's current Gateways Plan is from 2003 and that the request before Council is for approval for Gateway and Streetscape Planning Consultant Services to update the City's Gateway and Streetscape Plan. She added that the Plan will include guidelines for neighborhoods to properly landscape their entrances with signage and decorations. She noted that this Plan will also incorporate all the entrances to the City parks to remain consistent throughout the City. She added that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) awarded the City a \$50,000 grant to assist with the City's Gateway and Streetscape Plan. She explained that Orchard, Hilt & McCliment (OHM) would be the consultants for this project and they are familiar with the City's expectations.

Lee Zendel, 1575 Dutton, shared that Gateway Planning has been attempted in the City before and that there are several Gateways in the City. He stated that the last time this was proposed it was denied because of how costly it would be.

President Deel stated that the Gateway Plan has been in the works for some time and questioned what the City has envisioned in terms of the placement of gateways.

Ms. Roediger responded that the current plan has 27 recommendations for entrances into the City that include pedestrian and vehicle access. She explained that the 27 locations are divided into three levels depending on where they are in the community and how visible the entrances are. She explained that the Gateway and Streetscape Plan will be updated depending on what has changed since 2003 when the original Gateway Plan was created.

Ms. Mungoli shared that she will support this, however, she wants the expense of placing signs throughout the City looked into. She added that there are many other things she would like to see done in the City that do not include putting up

new signs. She stated that she appreciates the grant and is glad to see a study done, but would like to look at the financial impact of the Gateway and Streetscape Plan. She inquired if additional funding will be requested in future budgets, as this is the first request for a three year plan.

Ms. Roediger responded that \$100,000 has been budgeted each year for three years for the Gateway and Streetscape Plan that also includes implementing recommendations from the Plan. She added that the consultants anticipate completing the Plan in ten months and that the \$100,000 is an estimated placeholder until the Plan is complete.

Vice President Bowyer shared that Crooks and South Boulevard is the nicest entrance into the City that she has seen. She questioned if that entranceway will remain, or if it will be redeveloped based on the new Gateway and Streetscape Plan. She inquired if any new signs or money spent on the entranceways would have to be approved by City Council.

Ms. Roediger replied that the idea is to have a consistent look and feel as you enter into the City. She added that she does not know if that entranceway will be redeveloped, it will be determined based on what the Plan recommends. She responded that any spending on new signs or entranceways would have to be approved by City Council.

Mr. Hetrick stated that as the consultants proceed with the study, Council will be provided with updates as to the proposed costs of the entranceways. He added that it is good news that this Plan is getting updated.

Ms. Morlan questioned if the Plan will take into consideration the City's current logo.

Ms. Roediger stated that the Plan will include the current logo to stay consistent.

President Deel added that the entranceways and gateways are ambassadors to the City, as it is the first thing people see when they come to Rochester Hills. He stated that enhancing the entrances into the City will help address the overall brand and that is important.

Mayor Barnett stated that this is an opportunity to uphold the City's reputation and show how proud residents are to live in Rochester Hills. He added that he is glad that City Council is on board with moving forward with updating the Gateway and Streetscape Plan. He noted that a recent study showed that the sign in front of City Hall provided more information to residents than the City's cable channel and added that the location of a sign is important and can make a big impact.

A motion was made by Hetrick, seconded by Blair, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Blair, Bowyer, Deel, Hetrick, Morlan, Mungoli and Walker

Enactment No: RES0201-2022

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby authorizes a contract/blanket purchase order for gateway and streetscape planning consultant services to OHM Advisors, Livonia, Michigan in the amount not-to-exceed \$103,785.00 and further authorizes the Mayor to execute a contract on behalf of the City.

Further Resolved, that the City's acceptance of the proposal and approval of the award of a contract shall be contingent and conditioned upon the parties' entry into and execution of a written agreement acceptable to the City.