

City Council Staff Report

Date:

September 2, 2009

CONSENT CALENDAR

Subject:

APPROVAL OF PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATE (PS&E) AND AUTHORIZATION TO BID THE PORT LAWRENCE TEMPORARY

PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS, (CITY PROJECT 09-06)

From:

David H. Ready, City Manager

Initiated by: Public Works and Engineering Department

<u>SUMMARY</u>

The Port Lawrence residential and commercial project located at North Palm Canyon Drive and Alejo Road has been delayed from starting construction. In an effort to make use of the currently vacant site, it is proposed that the site be used as a temporary parking lot to provide additional parking for downtown business, and to install berming and desert landscaping around the perimeter of the site. The construction documents (Plans, Specifications and Estimate) are completed and, in accordance with 7.03.040 of the Procurement and Contracting Code the Council is required to approve and adopt plans, specifications and working details, and authorize the bid request for all public projects in excess of \$100,000. Approval of this project will allow staff to proceed with this public project with an estimated cost of \$150,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the plans, specifications, and working details, and authorize bidding for the Port Lawrence Temporary Parking Lot Improvements, (City Project 09-06).

STAFF ANALYSIS:

On October 4, 2006, the City Council approved a 118-unit condominium development with 25,000 square feet of commercial space on 4.1 acres located on the south side of Alejo Road between N. Palm Canyon Dr. and N. Indian Canyon Dr. (Case No. 5.1091, PD-324, Case No. 3.2933, Vesting TTM 34190).

After the City's approval of the Port Lawrence project, the national economy suffered its most dramatic decline since the Great Depression. The recession has essentially frozen financing for residential and commercial projects. This fact has caused the Port Lawrence project from proceeding with construction as approved.

City staff has discussed with the developer a variety of alternative uses for the currently vacant site while the national economy recovers. Since the site is prominently located at the entrance to the Downtown Business District, the site has significant value and it is staff's recommendation that the vacant site be adapted for an alternative use in the interim until such time when the economy might support financing of a large-scale residential or commercial project at this site.

It has been proposed that a temporary parking lot be constructed on the site, with access from Palm Canyon Dr., providing an additional 48 parking spaces. The Public Works and Engineering Department has prepared plans and specifications for construction of this temporary parking lot, which will include construction of an earthen berm 3 feet high meandering around the entire perimeter of the site along the three street frontages. Desert landscaping consisting of 5-gallon drought tolerant, native shrubs (such as agave and yucca plants), with 1 to 3 feet diameter boulders, is proposed in and around the meandering earthen berm. A landscape plan has not been prepared; however, the general scope of the landscaping has been specified, and staff will direct the contractor during construction on the type, mix and location of the variety of 5-gallon shrubs and boulders.

It is proposed that the temporary parking lot be constructed using 6 inches of crushed miscellaneous base, compacted and sealed, much as the overflow parking lot for Demuth Park was constructed near the YMCA on Mesquite Avenue. Parking spaces would be undesignated (striped) similar to the Demuth Park overflow parking and other unpaved parking areas. As an alternative, a bid will be provided for constructing the temporary parking lot with 2½ inches of asphalt paving on compacted subgrade. The parking lot would only have striped parking spaces in the event the City Council chooses to award the alternative bid that includes asphalt concrete paving. No curbs, landscaping, or parking lot lighting is proposed within the temporary parking lot, and the remainder of the site will remain vacant and undisturbed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this project will come from unallocated general fund balance.

Submitted:

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