

Bellevue Council has bright idea to make sure lights stay on in emergencies

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BELLEVUE

The Bellevue City Council approved on Monday the contracting of an emergency power center for traffic and street lights without observing the usual contractor bidding requirements.

As the Ohio Department of Transportation continues construction in downtown Bellevue, council member perceived the opportunity to integrate the city's light system with backup power from the fire department's emergency generator.

Since the ODOT workers are already managing the current site, council members said it would be counterproductive to find a new contractor to begin the electrical project. The job was therefore awarded to the current contractor, U.S. Utility Contractor, Inc., without the usual competitive bidding process.

"We thought it would be a really great idea if we could tie a synchronized lighting system to the generator at the fire department," said Jeff Crosby, Bellevue safety service director. "That way if something happens, then the lights will still work."

The council did establish a cost ceiling of \$62,000 for the project, a sum derived from an estimate attached to the ordinance.

In other news:

■ The council also voted to forego the bidding process for construction to be done on the Recreation Center.

Having been unable to attract a single at-large bid, the city actively solicited estimates from several contractors, eventually reaching an agreement with Triple AAA Interiors.

For improvements to the building including metal studs, drywall, and acoustic ceilings, the city will pay a cost not exceeding \$43,205, the ordinance states.

■ The council passed an ordinance that will appropriate \$7,704,362.10 from the Water Pollution Control Fund to the WWTP Improvement Project to meet the city's expenses.

A separate ordinance also passed at the meeting will appropriate an additional \$52,000 to cover certain the expenses of the Water Department.