

NO: R015

COUNCIL DATE: January 28, 2013

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 23, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and  
Culture**

FILE: **2320-20/H**

SUBJECT **Award of Tree Watering Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council authorize the extension through 2013 of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 with Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, for the watering of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$620,000, plus applicable taxes.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to exercise the option of extending through 2013 an existing contract related to the watering of street trees and park trees.

## BACKGROUND

Street trees and park shade trees require supplemental watering during the first six to eight years following planting depending on the weather during any given year. For 2013 there are approximately 23,000 trees that may need to be watered at the peak of the summer dry period. Approximately 5% of the watering is carried out by City staff with the remainder undertaken by a contractor.

In May, 2012 Council approved the recommendations of Corporate Report No. R099, which authorized the award of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 for the watering of street and park trees in 2012 to Dougherty Investments Ltd. DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors (“Horizon”), in the amount of \$566,168 plus HST. In September, 2012, due to a dry summer, an amending agreement was prepared and a further \$50,000 was added to the value of the contract for a total value in 2012 of \$616,168 plus taxes. The contract included an option in favour of the City to extend its term through 2013.

## **DISCUSSION**

The work carried out by Horizon during 2012 was fully satisfactory. The contractor has sufficient resources and expertise to undertake the necessary work to a very satisfactory level and has a good safety record.

### Financial Evaluation for 2013

The 2013 contract rates remain the same as the 2012 contract rates. Staff is satisfied that these rates represent good value to the City for the subject work.

The total anticipated cost of the work under the contract for 2013 is \$620,000, plus applicable taxes. This amount reflects the increase in the number of trees that may require watering in 2013 and the general trend toward drier summers where more watering is required.

Funding in support of this contract is available in the approved 2013 operating budget.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The City's street trees and park trees represent a significant green infrastructure investment. Well-managed trees beautify the City, provide habitat, mitigate storm water run-off, off-set carbon emissions and filter other pollutants. Regular watering of the trees helps to reduce tree failure and increase the service life of the trees. This is consistent with the objectives of the City Sustainability Charter; more particularly, Environmental Sustainability Goal EC3: undertake the maintenance of infrastructure for sustainability.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize the extension through 2013 of Contract No. 1220-040-2012-014 with Dougherty Investments Ltd., DBA Horizon Landscape Contractors, for the watering of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$620,000, plus applicable taxes.

Laurie Cavan,  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture