

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch, City Manager

DATE: June 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Award of an Engineering Contract to Install a Synthetic Turf Field at Allen Pond Park's Murtaugh I Field R-38-08

The current year budget has allocated \$65,000 towards engineering costs to install a synthetic turf field for Murtaugh I Field at Allen Pond Park. The recently adopted fiscal year 2009 budget has (\$900,000) for the actual construction of the field.

Staff has visited area facilities and reviewed the potential options available to us the City, in the public bidding arena in order to offer the City the greatest economies of scale for such a project. Additionally, staff contacted the two leading firms that the greatest experience in this field and requested proposals from them. The firms are Atlas Track and Tennis, using Fieldturf Tarkett synthetic turf, available via the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council (PAEJPC), and General Sports Venue made available via the U. S Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. Each firm has its own proprietary synthetic field turf for these fields.

As part of the process, each bidder included fees for the following:

Engineering, Permit Fees, Mobilization, Installation of Standard Silt Fence, Stone Construction to Entrance, Excavation to Subgrade, Fine Grade Subgrade, the installation of notched concrete curb, perimeter drains, geotextile fabric, the installation of base and finish stone that is laser graded, topsoil and seeding, construction management, the installation of black vinyl chain link fence, 73,800 square feet of synthetic turf, inlaid soccer markings, a 15' drag brush and costs for payment and performance bonds.

The firm Field Turf Tarkett provided a detailed cost offering by line item totaling \$773,847.20 that includes \$54,810 in engineering costs. The firm General Sports Venue provided a total cost of \$801,663 that included an engineering cost of \$55,080. The latter firm declined to provide a detailed breakdown of the cost centers identified above as they

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determined this to be proprietary. From a cost proposal, both firms are using the same engineering firm and installation firm to complete the work required.

In comparison, Field Turf Tarkett during their ten years has completed the most installations, with over 2,500 national and international artificial turf installations, that include a variety of sports. Two thirds of the National Football League fields and practice fields have installed their product, with an additional 40 major NCAA universities, 203 NCAA Division 1 schools and 28 high schools. Their product is also the official turf of Ripken Baseball.

General Sports Venue entered into a long term agreement for the marketing rights for all AstroTurf branded products in the United States in December 2006. Since that time, they have installed 106 fields for football, soccer and baseball. Only one of these installations is in the region (Alexandria, VA). They have a few pro teams and colleges. There were press reports in recent weeks that identified lead based issues with AstroTurf fields in New Jersey. According to their web site, "The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services confirmed on June 4, 2008 that the synthetic turf fields tested in New Jersey are safe for children and athletes. The findings support that a child of 50 pounds would have to ingest nearly 100 pounds of synthetic turf to realize the minimum lead threshold allowed for toys set for by the U. S. government."

The final cost breakdown is as follows:

	Base Price	Engineering	Purchasing Coop Service Fee	Annual Dues	Total Cost
Atlas Track And Tennis	\$707,354.73	\$54,810	\$11,432.47	\$250	\$773,847.20
General Sports Venue	\$746,583	\$55,080	-0-	-0-	\$801,663

In order to participate in the (PAEJPC) noted above, there is a \$250 annual membership dues and a 1.5% fee due to the cooperative itself. Even with these additional costs, the Atlas Track and Tennis proposal remains \$27,815.80 less than the other proposal.

**Recommendation:** Based on the information provided above, staff recommends that an engineering contract be awarded to Atlas Track and Tennis for the engineering services necessary for the installation of a synthetic turf field at Murtaugh I during fiscal year 2009 in the amount of \$54,810.

**RESOLUTION**

**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE  
WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENT  
OF SECTION 61 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BOWIE  
TO AWARD AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT TO ATLAS TRACK AND  
TENNIS TO INSTALL A SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD AT ALLEN POND'S  
MURTAUGH I SOCCER FIELD**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bowie is the owner of Allen Pond Park located at 3330 Northview Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bowie desires to install a synthetic turf field at Allen Pond Park's Murtaugh I soccer field; and

**WHEREAS**, the fiscal year 2008 budget has allocated \$65,000 towards the cost of this service; and

**WHEREAS**, staff has determined that Atlas Track and Tennis has provided the most responsive and competitive proposal available via publicly let contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, staff sought proposals from the leading firms with the greatest experience in this field through the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council and the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, and upon review of the proposals determined that there would be no advantage to the City to engage in the competitive bidding requirement regarding this project; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, by at least a two-thirds vote, in accordance with City Charter Section 61, hereby waives bidding requirements for good cause shown; and

**NOW FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland that the Council authorizes the City Manager to sign a contract with Atlas Track and Tennis in the amount of \$54,810.

**INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a Regular meeting on June 16, 2008.

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G. Frederick Robinson,  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pamela A. Fleming  
City Clerk