

**City of Hood River  
Resolution No. 2019-15**

A Resolution Exempting the Contract for Engineering Services from Competitive Bidding Requirements and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Contract with Bell Design Company for Interim City Engineering Services

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hood River recently terminated its contract with Bell Design Company, which has served as the city engineer of record since 2011, because the city desires to initiate a competitive search for suitably qualified individuals and to hire a City Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interim during which the city undertakes a competitive process for identifying and hiring a City Engineer, it requires temporary city engineering services from a suitably qualified and experienced civil engineering firm; and

**WHEREAS**, ORS 279B.085 authorizes the City to use special procurement procedures for a special class or single contracts when special circumstances warrant such an approach, do not encourage favoritism or limit competition, results in a substantial cost savings and promotes the public interest that would not be realized through the normal competitive bidding procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, Hood River Municipal Code §2.32.060C similarly provides for an exception to the full competitive bidding requirements for a special class or single personal service contract when special circumstances warrant such an approach, an exception will not encourage favoritism or limit competition, it will result in a substantial cost savings and promote the public interest that would not be realized through the normal competitive bidding procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the City can realize significant cost savings by out-sourcing its city engineering services to the City's previous city engineer of record, Bell Design Company, because it can limit those services to specific projects that include funding for contracted engineering services and Bell Design Company is already familiar with the City, its infrastructure and all city projects; and

**WHEREAS**, special procurement policies are warranted in this instance because there are no engineers other than the former city engineer that have current comprehensive personal knowledge of the City, its infrastructure and all City projects; therefore, the use of summary contracting procedures for this interim period will not encourage favoritism or limit competition; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the former consulting city engineer's particularized knowledge of the City, its infrastructure and City projects, no training or break-in period is needed, which will result in substantial efficiency and cost savings; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining continuous and consistent engineering leadership on all current projects is in the public interest as is the significant cost savings that can be

realized by out-sourcing city engineering services to the person most uniquely qualified to serve as city engineer and the firm that has held this position for the past eight years; and

**WHEREAS**, the temporary need for an interim personal services contract for city engineer services is expected to last from 6 months to a maximum of 12 months while the city undertakes a full public competitive search for a permanent full-time city engineer.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Hood River City Council, acting as the Contract Review Board, that:

Section 1. **Incorporation of Recitals.** In support of this special process for procurement under ORS 279B.085 and HRMC 2.32.060(C), the foregoing recitals are incorporated herein.

Section 2. **Exemption from Competitive Bidding.** A personal services contract may be executed between the City of Hood River and Bell Design Company for interim city engineering services that is exempt from the competitive bidding requirements that would otherwise apply, so long as such a contract is expressly interim and of a limited duration.

Section 3. **Authorization to Negotiate Contract.** The City Manager is hereby authorized to negotiate a contract with Bell Design Company for the provision of interim city engineering services for an initial period of six months, with the possibility of one 6-month renewal, for a maximum total of 12 months.

Section 4. **City Manager to Undertake Competitive Search for Qualified Candidates.** The City Manager, in collaboration with the Public Works Director, shall undertake a competitive search for qualified individuals and hire a City Engineer from those candidates.

Approved by the Hood River City Council, acting as the Contract Review Board, this 12 day of Nov. 2019, to take effect immediately

  
Kate McBride, Mayor

Attest:

  
Jenifer Gray, City Recorder

Approved as to form:

  
Daniel Kearns, City Attorney