

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 05/14/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0433

LOG NAME: 80RATIFY AN EXPENDITURE WITH L.J. DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION LLC

SUBJECT

(CD 7) Ratify Expenditure with L.J. Design & Construction, LLC, in the Amount of \$130,667.00 for Construction of Production Greenhouse to Serve the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Located at the Rolling Hills Tree Farm, 2525 Joe B. Rushing Road

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council ratify an expenditure in the amount of \$130,667.00 with L.J. Design & Construction, LLC, for the construction of a production greenhouse to serve the Fort Worth Botanic Garden at the Rolling Hills Tree Farm located at 2525 Joe B. Rushing Road (City Project No. 102829).

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to ratify an expenditure with L.J. Design & Construction, LLC, for the construction of a production greenhouse at the Rolling Hills Tree Farm in the amount of \$130,667.00. Council authorization is required for expenditure exceeding \$100,000.00 per the City of Fort Worth Administrative Regulations Procurement of Goods and Services.

On October 10, 2017, City Council authorized the execution of a contract with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) to manage education and volunteer programs at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden (FWBG) (M&C C-28427). On May 19, 2020, City Council authorized the execution of the second amendment to this contract for complete management of the FWBG (M&C 20-0347). The City agreed to provide funding for capital improvements and repairs over a 12-year period.

On April 7, 2020, City Council authorized the issuance of 2020 Tax Notes (M&C 20-0214) of which \$4,300,000.00 was for capital improvements at the Botanic Garden to fund 15 different projects. The 2022 Bond Program allocated \$7,000,000.00 to fund several capital improvements at the Botanic Garden (not included in the 2020 Tax Notes project list). The production greenhouse is one of the capital improvement projects for the 2020 Tax Notes.

After a master planning effort, it was determined that this production greenhouse would best be located off site. On September 12, 2023, City Council authorized the use of a portion of public parkland for proposed utility easements and permanent maintenance areas in support of a production greenhouse facility within Rolling Hills Park (M&C 23-0782). On February 14, 2023, City Council authorized execution of a Job Order Contract with F.H. Paschen, Nielsen & Associates, LLC, for construction of a greenhouse to serve the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, at the Rolling Hills Tree Farm, 2525 Joe B. Rushing Road (M&C 23-0084). L.J. Design & Construction, LLC, is the specialist subcontractor of F.H. Paschen, Nielsen & Associates, LLC, for greenhouse construction. The goods and services to ratify expenditure includes:

- Wadsworth SEED Controller and contactor panel
- Low voltage wiring
- 480v Transformer and Disconnect
- Greenhouse Disconnect and breaker panel
- Fire lane grading, compaction, geofabric, and road base
- Upgrade of greenhouse coverings to Solar Soft for better durability

These goods and services were part of the original full scope of work per construction drawings and specifications. It was eliminated from the contract with F. H. Paschen, Nielsen & Associates, LLC, because of shortage of tax note funds designated for the greenhouse project. BRIT authorized L.J. Design & Construction, LLC, to deliver the goods and services with an understanding that they would be incorporated into the original scope of work, and would be paid after the project funding issues were resolved.

On February 14, 2023, City Council authorized the transfer of \$520,000.00 from Fort Worth Botanic Gardens programmable project (City Project Number PB0025) to the BG Replace Fiberglass Greenhouse project (City Project Number 102829) within the 2022 Bond Program Fund. This was intended to include future work on material storage, a potting facility/headhouse, and plant storage areas. As these improvements are still in conceptual design and can be altered or phased-in, the decision was made to make funds available to pay for the goods and services listed above in the amount of \$130,667.00.

Payment of this obligation will not result in the previously appropriated 2020 Tax Notes Fund of \$4,300,000.00 and 2022 Bond Program Fund of \$7,000,000.00 designated for Botanic Garden to go over the budget.

Botanic Garden is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 and is a citywide facility.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

