



Melinda K. Dejewski, PE
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April 9, 2025

Board of Public Works
West Allis City Hall
West Allis, Wisconsin

Re: Project No. 2025-2 – W. Orchard/W. Mineral Sts. Reconstruction

Dear Board Members:

The Engineering Department opened bids on April 9, 2025 for the reconstruction of W. Orchard St. and W. Mineral St. There were 4 bidders and the bids range from \$1,991,053.39 to \$2,129,953.00. The budget is \$2,035,000.

When contractors submit bids, there are several technical procedures that are supposed to be followed. One of those technical items is to submit a signed bid bond. The bid bond provides assurance to the City that if the lowest responsible bidder decides to not sign the contract or withdraw their bid after the City deems them the lowest responsible bidder, the City can use the bid bond to recover costs that the City incurred for all the additional work. It also reduces contractors submitting bids that they have no intention of executing.

For this bid, State Contractors is the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$1,991,053.39. However, they failed to sign their bid bond. Wandel Contractors is the apparent second low bidder with a bid of \$2,042,515.95. The difference between the 2 bids is \$51,462.56 (2.5% of the total project). The Engineering Department is recommending awarding to apparent second low bidder, Wandel Contractors, due to this technical error. The Common Council has the authority to waive the requirement to sign the bid bond for this project if they feel that this technical requirement is not material to the decision for this contract. State Contractors has in the recent past has not signed their bid bonds so this appears to be a pattern. We have contacted them about this error but it has continued.

Please reach out with any questions to Rob Hutter, PE, Assistant City Engineer. Recall that I will be unavailable beginning April 11.

Thank you,

Melinda K. Dejewski, PE
City Engineer