



Office of the City Manager

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CONSENT CALENDAR
May 26, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Phillip Harrington, Director, Public Works

Subject: Contract No. 10145 Amendment: IPS Group, Inc. for Parking Meter Operations

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend Contract No.10145 with IPS Group, Inc. to provide parking meters, replacement parts, and support services, increasing the contract amount by an additional \$1,513,540 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$7,033,457 through June 30, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total cost of the amendment is \$1,513,540 which includes parking meters, replacement parts, supplies, wireless data connection fees, system licenses, and repair services to maintain the City's parking meter system for two years. The funding source for the amendment is the Parking Meter Fund (Fund 631). Funding for this contract amendment will be appropriated in the FY 2021 budget in the amount of \$925,500, for necessary upgrades to cellular modems, and in the FY 2022 budget is subject to appropriation in the amount of \$588,040.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City uses approximately 2,200 single-space parking meters and 230 multi-space pay stations supplied by IPS Group, Inc. to manage public on-street parking in commercial districts throughout the City. IPS "smart" meters accept coin and credit card payments, and are equipped with T-Mobile and Verizon modems allowing them to connect to cellular networks to receive programming and send transaction-related information. Staff retrieve transaction data and program meters via a web-based software operating system that is maintained by the vendor.

Since 2019, staff has been replacing the single space meters' original 2G modems with upgraded 4G modems. 2G connections are very slow, and outmoded: T-Mobile and Verizon are phasing out their 2G networks by the end of calendar year 2020. As this report is being written, only one-eighth of single space meters have received new modems. The 4G upgrades are needed to support all meter functionality, including: all payment/revenue transactions, setting rates and time limits, and alerting staff to malfunctions. Without the upgrades, these activities will not be possible.

In November 2015, the City entered into a contract with IPS Group, Inc. which was authorized by Resolution No. 67,093-N.S¹. With a total not-to-exceed amount of \$5,519,917, the contract includes funding for multi-space and single space meters, parts, supplies, and fees for wireless data connections, system licenses, software escrow, and warranties. The contract is currently set to expire on June 30, 2020.

Council approval is needed to amend the contract with IPS Group, which will authorize enough funding to continue critical modem upgrades and maintain services through June 30, 2022, by which time staff anticipates a new Request for Proposals (RFP) process for parking meters will be completed on schedule.

BACKGROUND

The City has used IPS “smart” coin and credit card meters since December 2010, when they were introduced via the grant-funded Berkeley Transportation Action Plan (B-TAP) to facilitate demand-responsive pricing and time limit adjustments.² The B-TAP pilot project was later renamed the goBerkeley parking management program, and became a permanent baseline program in 2015.

The City expanded the use of IPS single-space meters in 2011, and by the end of 2014, IPS meters were installed citywide. As part of the existing contract, IPS multi-space pay stations were installed in 2015. Since its initial use in Berkeley, the equipment has been a cost-effective parking management mechanism, positively impacting operations by making it easier for customers to pay for parking while improving the integrity of parking data for staff. The City assumes a ten-year operable lifespan for single-space meters, and seven years for pay stations which will need replacement beginning 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Both parking meter types are powered by environmentally friendly solar panels and a combination rechargeable and back-up battery pack. The pay stations include sensors that conserve battery life from the LED lighting that is illuminated with detection of customer presence or when a transaction is initiated. Additionally, proximity sensors in pay stations will “awaken” a meter upon a customer’s arrival, thereby maximizing power efficiency.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The IPS parking meter system, including single-space meters and pay stations, the web-based meter programming software, replacement parts, and support services are required to maintain the City’s parking management operations, which generates revenue for the City. Furthermore, upgrading the single space meter modems to 4G is a critical task that must be completed before T-Mobile and Verizon shut down their 2G networks at the end of 2020.

¹ June 23, 2015 City Council Agenda: <https://bit.ly/394IzH9>

² Resolutions 65,118-N.S. and 65,119-N.S.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Council could extend the term of the contract for only one year. While this would allow for the modem upgrades to be completed to the aging meter equipment, it would severely constrain the time available for staff to manage a complex procurement process for a replacement meter system. Additionally, a two-year extension allows the City to memorialize current parts and services costs, protecting against future vendor price increases.

CONTACT PERSON

Farid Javandel, Transportation Division Manager, Public Works, 981-7061
Danette Perry, Parking Services Manager, Public Works, 981-7057

Attachment:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 10145 AMENDMENT: IPS PARKING METERS, PAY STATIONS,
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, AND ASSOCIATED SUPPORT SERVICES

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2015 by Resolution No. 67,093-N.S. the City Council authorized Contract No. 10145 with IPS Group, Inc. for multi-space and single space parking meters, parts, supplies, and fees for wireless data connections, system licenses, software escrow, and warranties; and

WHEREAS, IPS meters accept coin and credit card payments, and were originally equipped with T-Mobile and Verizon 2G modems allowing them to connect to cellular networks to receive programming and send transaction-related information; and

WHEREAS, the City purchased and installed IPS single-space meters and multi-space pay stations from November 2015 to June 2017, for which the contract provides a data management system, replacement parts, support, fees, and licenses; and

WHEREAS, the City is actively upgrading single space meters to 4G modems before T-Mobile and Verizon phase out their 2G networks at the end of year 2020, with one-eighth of single space meters upgraded as of May 2020; and

WHEREAS, the 4G upgrades are needed to support all meter functionality, including: all payment/revenue transactions, setting rates and time limits, and alerting staff to malfunctions; and without the upgrades, these activities will not be possible; and

WHEREAS, the City extended the contract twice with the current expiration date of June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City assumes a ten-year operable lifespan for single-space meters, and seven years for pay stations, which will need replacing beginning in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Council approval is needed to extend the contract through June 30, 2022, to ensure the existing meter system is upgraded and maintained, by which time a new RFP process for a replacement parking meter system is expected to be completed; and

WHEREAS, the funding of \$1,513,540 for the contract amendment is from the Parking Meter Fund (Fund 631), and funding is subject to appropriation in the FY 2021 budget and in the FY 2022 budget; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that City Manager is authorized to amend Contract No.10145 with IPS Group, Inc. to provide parking meters, replacement parts, and support services, increasing the contract

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amount by an additional \$1,513,540 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$7,033,457 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

