THE CITY OF DORAVILLE
AGENDA ITEM SHEET

Subject: Energy Efficiency Consultant Recommendation__

Date of Meeting: August 16, 2010

Budget Impact: □Yes ■ No

Budget Impact Amount: $ 0

Funding Source:

□ Annual
□ Capital
■ Grant
□ N/A

Regular Meeting	□
Work Session	□
Recommendation	■
Policy/Discussion	□
Report	□
Other	□

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Action Requested: Approve staff recommendation for Energy Efficiency Consultant

History, Facts, Issues: Project is receiving 100% funding through the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program and administered by the now known as the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).

Scope of Work: Consultant will perform D.O.E. mandated audit, help craft comprehensive energy policy/ strategy consistent with ENERGY STAR program and geared towards achieving Certified Green City status, assist in establishing energy auditor training program, LED incentives program and public education materials and programming.

Options: Staff recommends the Virginia Highland-based Empower Energy Technology. EET's proposed budget: $11,700.00. Total project budget: $12,000.00.

Recommended Action: Vote

Department: Administrative **Department Head:** Mayor

Administrative Comments and Recommendation: N/A

Action Taken By Board: N/A

the city of Doraville℠

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MEMO **AUGUST 11, 2010**

TO: **HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

FROM: **LUKE HOWE, ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR**

RE: **EECBG GRANT – ENERGY EFFICIENCY CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATION**

Of the three consulting firms that attended the pre-proposal conference on July 26, two submitted proposals. The two proposers – MACTEC and Empower Energy Tech – offered bids of $16,356.42 and $11,700.00, respectively.

The budget for this component of the EECBG project is $12,000.00. All the conference attendees were made aware of this figure. Any amount exceeding $12,000.00 would either require a change-of-work order request to GEFA or an out-of-pocket expenditure by the City – neither of which is practical.

The deliverables of this component include:

- Conduct initial energy audit and general electrical engineering consultation
- Assist City in crafting comprehensive energy policy and public education strategy
- Assist City in launching LED incentives program
- Assist City in launching energy auditor and LEED accreditation programs
- Assist City in identifying potential renewable/ clean energy capital improvements

MACTEC is a great firm with great personnel, but they do a little bit of everything. Bids notwithstanding, in this case, a smaller firm that specializes in this particular area makes more sense. Empowerment is a four-man operation that combines for nearly 75 years of electrical engineering experience.

MACTEC is a comprehensive, nation-wide engineering firm. On the other hand, Empowerment is a small, relatively young company in an emerging market. In my opinion, when all other considerations are equal, we should use these opportunities to nurture small businesses like Empowerment Energy because at the end of the day we're encouraging more sector growth, which leads to more job creation, more energy solutions and ultimately a stronger economy and cleaner environment.

Among others, Empowerment Energy's clients include:

Advantage Laser Products, Inc.
City of Dawsonville
Dawson County
Fidelity Bank
Georgia Tech
L-3 Communications
Lumpkin County
Mizuno USA

References:

Advantage Laser Products – Atlanta, Ga.

According to Brian Chaney with Advantage Laser Products, "Empower worked with us for a couple months planning and quoting the solar array project and helping to determine the break-even point of the project. They were very helpful and well organized. The project installation went well and they stayed on spent a great deal of time after installation making sure the system was running as it should. They continue to follow up. We have had a very good experience with them."

Lumpkin County Government – Dahlonega, Ga.

According to Mark Wade French of Lumpkin County, "they [Empowerment] completed an energy assessment for our EECBG proposal[1]. They produced a high-quality product in a professional and quick manner. Without their help, we probably would have not received the grant."

Mizuno USA – Norcross, Ga.

According to Bill Dawson of Mizuno USA, "at Mizuno USA, Inc., our motto is 'Never Settle.' Mizuno USA is dedicated to advancing sports through cutting edge technology and research. The Empower Energy Technology team is like Mizuno USA. When it comes to helping businesses maintain continuous, uninterrupted power for mission critical operations … they Never Settle for anything but the best."

Respectfully,

S/ Luke Howe

[1] The City of Dawsonville, Dawson County and Lumpkin County submitted a joint EECBG proposal for interior LED upgrades.