Issue Date: March 22, 2024

Subject: Revised Request for Proposals (RFP) for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) – Water and Electric Meters for the City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utilities Service Area - Addendum 2.

The following answers are provided to questions received from 3/18/24 through 3/21/24. Since the City extended the proposal due date in Addendum 1 to be April 16, 2024 at 4:00pm ET, the City will also extend the time to submit questions. The City will accept vendor questions to be submitted by March 29, 2024 at 5:00pm. All questions should be emailed to the City of Gastonia's Utilities Engineer, Kyle Butler, at kyleb@tworiversutilities.com. The City will work to provide responses to all questions by April 3, 2024.

1) In Section 1. Invitation, it is noted that a future portion of the electric service area may have/will have an alternate electric utility provider. Do you anticipate that the new provider will fall under the Cities jurisdiction and therefore the AMI system should have sufficient capacity and coverage to incorporate those new meters?

> a) The alternative electric provider is not expected to change, so areas with water only service is not expected to serve City-owned electric meters in those areas. The City is experiencing significant growth and there are pending residential areas that will require both water and electric services starting in 2026. The City will work with the selected vendor to address these planned developments and responders should use the meter data provided in Appendix B_Customer File, for the propagation study, ensuring coverage to those meters.

2) Does the City plan to retain any of the meters (electric and/or water) that are removed from service for calibration verification or for reference should a customer bill complaint follow the installation of a new, digital meter? If so, will the contractor be responsible for storage and indexing for retrievability?

> a) The City will consider this option but the photos and data captured at the time of install is sufficient for addressing any potential customer concern (see Technical Specifications Workbook Tab I. Installation for additional details and requirements). If offering to track and store old meters outside of the expected scrap process, Vendors should be clearly detail the process in the response and any additional costs for this service.

3) It is not uncommon for electrical meters that have been installed for extended periods of time to be difficult to remove without damaging the inner connections of the meter base. Does the City have a process for customers to replace electric meter bases that may be damaged or that have damage that is revealed when the meter is replaced?

a) The City's policy is that meter bases are the responsibility of the customer. However, in the Technical Specifications Workbook Tab F. Electric Meters cell F28, the City is seeking information in the response from vendors who are capable of conducting meter base sourcing and replacement. Any costs associated with meter base repair/replacement should be noted in the Cost Summary Workbook for equipment and labor. The City will provide support for any meter base situations that are deemed unsafe or damaged prior to install via the Return to Utility (RTU) process, and/or the appropriate issue notification and escalation process.

4) In Appendix E, Technical Specifications, Cell C17, the RFP specifies that Solar Power for Collectors shall have a charge controller that has remote diagnosis by City employees. Are you expecting that connection to be via the AMI network or an external network? (i.e. cellular)

a) Cellular network connection for the solar charge controller is acceptable.

5) In Appendix E, Technical Specifications, Cell C18, the RFP notes a City-owned fiberoptic network that may be used for backhaul. Can you provide a map of the routing of that network and the number of available fibers for use in providing the required backhaul?

a) The details for the City's fiber connections will be made available to the selected vendor.

6)Does the SmartWorks MDMS and SilverBlaze Customer Portal provide VE&E (validation, estimation, and editing) services for meter reads prior to customer presentment?

a) Yes, SmartWorks MDMS provides VEE

7) Does the City currently have a rate structure or residential customers with CT Single-Phase Residential Service? i.e 400A 120/240VAC

a) Yes, we have residential single-phase services with CTs. These are on the regular residential rate.

8) Could you please clarify Exhibit E, Cell F30 and F31? Are you requiring residential meters in Class 320 to have remote disconnect/reconnect functionality or only those residential meters 200A or less?

a) The City only requires residential 2S meters class 200 to have remote disconnect/reconnect functionality. However, the City has several different forms utilized for residential services, as detailed in F31.

9) Appendix C - Request for Propagation Results lists "or cellular networking" as an acceptable alternative to an AMI system utilizing "traditional fixed-base, customer-owned collectors". Appendix E Cell C1 specifies that the proposed network "be point-to-multipoint, be owned by the City, and be neither cellular or mesh". Please clarify the role that (commercial) cellular radio communications may provide in the proposed AMI solution.

a) The inclusion of cellular networking in Appendix C is incorrect and should be disregarded. That sentence should instead read “Please provide propagation analysis results for full deployment of AMI utilizing traditional fixed-base, customer-owned collectors.” As stated in Appendix E Technical Specifications Tab C. Network cell C1, the City is not considering any network that utilizes mesh or cellular connectivity.

10) Can you tell me are there any meter lids on this project to be replaced ? If so what size and shape they are.

a) Appendix F Cost Summary Workbook has line items for drilling and for meter lid replacements with sizing listed. The City will work with the selected vendor to better determine lid needs and does not have specific inventory details or quantities of all lid types and sizes.

11) Who provides gaskets?

a) Gaskets should be provided by the installer. If the gasket pricing for smaller meters is a separate line item from the meter, please utilize the “Other” line items and detail what that pricing is and what it covers. Note there is a line item for “Large Meter Appurtenances” as well.

12) What is the approximate square miles of the geographic area of the meters to be covered under this contract?

a) Roughly 65 square miles.

13) Will the City provide an electronic listing of addresses, phone numbers, and account information?

a) The list of addresses is provided as Appendix B Customer File to support the propagation study. The City will provide the selected vendor with the full CIS export

that contains additional account information to support planning, locating, and replacing the meters.

14) Who provides Door Hangers?

a) RFP Section IV.B. Scope of Services Task 1.4, the Contractor shall be responsible for helping participate in the sub-team to design the door hangers, and the installation crew will be responsible for hanging the door hangers at the time of install, the City will provide the printed door hangers. If the vendor is capable of providing printed door hangers and would like to provide a quote for that service, the "Other" lines in the Appendix F Cost Summary Workbook can be utilized for detailing that out for the City's consideration.

15) Will the contractor be paid for stored materials

a) Equipment is assumed to be paid upon receipt with proof provided following the requirements for inventory stated in Appendix E Technical Specifications Workbook Tab I. Installation.

16) What percentage of meter boxes is located in concrete or asphalt?

a) Please see Appendix E Technical Specifications Workbook Tab E. Water Meters where the highlighted note details that an estimated 8-12% of water meters are in sidewalks, concrete, or asphalt.

17) Do all settings have shut off valves before the meters?

a) The majority are expected to have shut off valves in line with the meter.

18) Are all valves in the meter box?

a) For the majority of residential meters, the valves are expected to be within the meter box.

19) What is the procedure for any inoperable or broken valves?

a) Those instances would be considered Return to Utility (RTU), with the issue clearly detailed and picture captured and marked in the work order. Appendix E Technical Specifications Workbook has several areas that detail requirements around RTU designation and issue escalation with the City during the project. The City will work with the selected vendor to identify common RTU scenarios and discuss with the selected vendor how best to handle.

20) Will we be installing any additional product, i.e. broken stop valves, dual check valves?

a) The City will work with the selected vendor to identify RTU scenarios and may discuss options for approving non-standard work such as valve replacement or installation at that time. For proposal response purposes, the City is not seeking for responders to provide a quote or be expected to perform valve replacement work.

21) What is the average meter depth?

a) The average meter depth is estimated to be about 5" at center pipe. Appendix E Technical Specifications Workbook Tab E. Water Meters where the highlighted note referenced 4" for meter depth will be updated to reflect 5" instead.

22) Are the meters in setters, or are they connected with straight meter couplings?

a) Please see Appendix E Technical Specifications Workbook Tab E. Water Meters where the highlighted note details that most meters are on setters with only a few hundred estimated to be straight-piped.

23) What is the type of setter?

a) The City's standard details should be referenced for specifics on setters and other similar concerns. The link to that document is here: https://gastonianc.gov/city-specifications-standard-details/standard-details.html?view=article&id=365:330-884-clone-of-sanitary-sewer-and-water-details-drawer-71-b&catid=82

24) Do you have drawings for the large meters 3" and above?

a) The drawings and details regarding the City's larger size water meters can be found in the above link to the City Standards, 71B-10A and 71B-10B. Sections 71B-20, 71B-20A, 71B-20B and 71B-20C are pertaining meters sized 3/4" – 2".

25) Do the existing 1 ½" and 2" meters have flanged or threaded ends?

a) Both 1 ½" and 2" meters that are in setters have flanged connections.

26) Do the electric meters have a by-pass?

a) 3-phase 200 and 320 amp bases 25 years or newer typically have a bypass.

27) Are the electric meters Poly Phase or CT rated meters?

a) Please see Appendix E Technical Specifications Tab F. for details on electric meters and the related requirements and Appendix F Cost Summary Workbook Tab C Electric Meters for specifics.

28) Are these meters A Based?

a) Please see Appendix E Technical Specifications Tab F. for details on electric meters and the related requirements and Appendix F Cost Summary Workbook Tab C Electric Meters for specifics.