

On February 5, 2019 a majority of the City Council voted to adopt an ordinance that would provide for transparency and accountability in the selection of professional services for the City of Jonesboro.

Seven (7) members voted for the ordinance despite last minute opinions presented by attorneys working for the administration. The ordinance would have removed City Employees who may be influenced by the City Engineer.

One only needs to look at the number of contracts awarded to non-local firms compared to contracts awarded to local firms, as well as the rating/grading forms for some of those projects, in order to conclude that the City Engineer is biased against local engineers.

On February 8, 2019, the Mayor vetoed the vote for transparency and accountability.

With few exceptions, projects for which services are being and have been solicited are not different than projects that local engineers have been doing in Jonesboro for decades. I have been a civil engineer in Jonesboro since 1975. Therefore hiring engineers from out of town and even out of state is not necessary for the work. What then is the reason to deny the work to people who have been working in Jonesboro, creating jobs for local people, contributing to the local community, and keeping salaries and any profits in the local economy.

If bias and promoting former employers and friends were the only reasons, I suppose that the City and long time local engineers would have to live with that. However, the consequences of the actions by the City Engineer, and appointed employees have a larger impact than putting local professionals out of business.

For me to submit a proposal for services outside of Jonesboro, I must consider up to an additional one third (1/3) for my costs of indirect expense and overhead. I find no evidence from contracts that I have looked at, that others must not do the same. Simple math reveals that the use of non-local professionals is costing the City of Jonesboro hundreds of thousands of dollars. Surely no personal satisfaction for any elected official or employee is worth that cost.

On Tuesday, April 23, at 10:00 am the Public Works Committee will meet to discuss an ordinance proposed by the Mayor which adopts, by reference, policies and procedures to be used in the selection of professionals. I regret to say that the lack of transparency remains as the basis of the proposed ordinance.

Date Prepared 04/22/19

## Engineering Services Only

Associated Engineering \$25,900.00  
 Fisher and Arnold \$1,226,067.57  
 Civil Engineering Associates \$507,567.72  
 Pickering \$209,396.07

Contract Description	Date 2017	Type	Amount	Change Orders	Total	Consultant Name
Engineering Services for a Stormwater Utility Development Study	09/26/17	Contract	\$173,820.00		\$173,820.00	Fisher and Arnold
Engineering Services No further description	08/23/17	Purchase Order	\$138,370.00		\$138,370.00	Civil Engr. Assoc.
Engineering Services Sun Lacy Park Access Road	08/23/17	Purchase Order	\$29,740.43		\$29,740.43	Pickering
Engineering Services Sun Northside Park Access	08/23/17	Purchase Order	\$170,155.64	\$9,500.00	\$179,655.64	Pickering
Engineering Services No further description	06/26/17	Contract	\$218,767.00		\$218,767.00	Fisher and Arnold
Engineering Services for Harrisburg Road Widening	03/27/17	Contract	\$290,573.00	<del>\$39,249.30</del>	\$329,822.30	Fisher and Arnold
Engr/Arch Services Cemetery Maint. Bldg	03/27/17	Contract	\$16,500.00		\$16,500.00	Brackett/ Krennerich
Engr/Arch Services JMC Park Shop Bldg	03/27/17	Contract	\$27,600.00		\$27,600.00	Brackett/ Krennerich
Sun Prepare Story Boards for Tax Campaign	Jul 2015	Contract	\$69,786.00		\$69,786.00	Fisher and Arnold
Sun Bridge on West College Cost too high. Never built		Contract	\$83,998.07	\$5,659.20	\$89,657.27	Fisher and Arnold
Sun Intersection of SW Drive and Highland Drive	2016-2018	Contract	\$133,627.00	\$33,953.00	\$167,580.00	Fisher and Arnold
Sun Environmental Assessment for Shooting Complex	2016	Contract	\$47,700.00		\$47,700.00	Fisher and Arnold
Sun Concession Stand at JMC Park Architectural	2017	Contract	\$22,500.00		\$22,500.00	Fisher and Arnold
Sun Citywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Plan	2017	Contract	\$138,370.00		\$138,370.00	Civil Engr. Assoc.
Sun Craighead Forrest multi-use Trail	2015	Contract	\$230,827.72		\$230,827.72	Civil Engr. Assoc.
Sun Bowling Lane Extension COJ has not paid Change Order	Dec 2017		\$25,900.00		\$25,900.00	Associated Engr
Downtown to ASU Connection Bike Trails	03/27/19		\$106,435.00		\$106,435.00	Fisher and Arnold
			<b>\$1,924,669.86</b>	<b>\$88,361.50</b>	<b>\$2,013,031.36</b>	

SUMMARY

ASU-Downtown Trail

CRAIG LIGHT 12 of 20  
 TIFFANY CALLOWAY 17 of 20  
 DANNY KAPALES 16 of 20  
 DERRELL SMITH #8 of 20

Company Name	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	Total
16 Associated Engineering	24	14 24	21	28	97
4 Civil Engineering Assoc	32	29 39	32	30	133
5 Crafton Tull	26	23 33	29	36	124
2 Ecological Design Group	33	28 38	32	40	143
Fisher Arnold	36	30 40	38	38	152
19 FTN Associates Ltd	17	11 21	17	27	82
7 Garver	27	24 34	31	29	121
12 Geotechnology	20	21 31	24	29	104
10 Greenberg Farrow	26	23 33	30	23	112
9 Halff Assoc Inc	28	22 32	32	25	117
18 Hawkins Weir Engineers Inc.	23	14 24	24	17	88
14 Jacobs	24	13 23	29	24	100
8 McClelland Consulting Engineering	28	25 35	34	22	119
6 Michael Baker International	26	27 37	34	25	122
17 Miller-Newell	17	20 30	25	19	91
11 Olsson	24	20 30	24	31	109
3 Pickering Engineering	32	27 37	33	33	135
13 Smith & Co.	23	23 33	22	23	101
15 SSR	24	22 32	19	24	99
20 W. William Graham, Jr	19	21 31	18	13	81

- 01/19/18 Letter of interest for South Caraway is advertised to include primary contact information SOQ. After selection, firms will be given scope of work and will submit a Proposal. (RFQ). Did Garver and Jacobs submit RFQ?
- 02/06/18 SOQ's received
- 03/19/18 Easley advises Cameron that fifteen SOQ's had been submitted and three (3) had be selected to submit RFQ. Associated was not one of the three chosen.
- 03/19/18 With Tracy Cooper. The three chosen were Garver, Pickering, and Jacobs. All three were from out of town. The selection committee was Craig Light and two of his employees, Michael Morris and Mark Nichols.
- 03/23/18 I met with the Mayor and discussed the above items with him. He said that he would look into the situation. Roy Ockert is now the acting COO The Mayor committed to "stop progress" on awarding the contract on the South Caraway Road Project.
- 05/15/18 After hearing that Craig was putting the proposed contract for South Caraway Road on the council agenda for the June 5, 2018 meeting, I met with him in his office. He told me that he had negotiated a price of \$288,000.00. He said that the Mayor had mentioned my March 23 meeting to him but was proceeding. He told me that even though he and his employees had selected Garver and Jacobs as the other two proposers in the SOQ process he had no intent to use either one of them because of prior problems with both of them. I asked him why had he chosen them in the top three if he already knew that he was not going to hire them. I got no answer.

Per Ockert Pickering has lowered their price by \$50,000  
I asked when did they do that. He said the day after I delivered my FOI to City Hall.