



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

## Memorandum

To: Members of City Council

From: Alexandria Nichols, Director, Recreation Department

Cc: David Weiss, Mayor  
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Potts, Finance Director

Date: November 28, 2022

Re: Request to Enter into an Agreement with Johnson Controls for Replacement Fire Alarm Panel at Thornton Ice Rink

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The Shaker Heights Fire Department recently mandated the replacement of the Thornton Park fire alarm panel following false alarm signals caused by an analog communication system in the panel. The current panel was installed in 1986 so it does not have modern communications technology, nor is it capable of being retrofitted with digital communication technology. It is the old analog technology that is causing the false alarm signals and, for safety reasons, the panel needs to be upgraded. A recent fire inspection that was conducted shows the remainder of the fire system working correctly and the panel is the only issue.

The current fire system was manufactured by Simplex which is currently produced by Johnson Controls. All peripheral controls are proprietary to Johnson Controls and the cost of a new alarm panel is \$28,702. Once updated, the panel would be compatible with the existing fire safety system and the false alarm signals would cease. Pricing was received to replace the alarm panel and alarm system and these cost exceeds \$50,000. The entire system is not in need of replacement and a new panel will ensure a properly working fire alarm system.

City purchasing rules require that all purchases over \$25,000 are competitively bid. Competitive bidding can be waived when something is only available by a single source. In this case, the fire panel is proprietary to Johnson Controls and it cannot be competitively bid due to the nature of the equipment so it is requested that competitive bidding is waived for his purchase.

This item was presented to the Recreation Committee and they had a few questions. See questions and responses below.

Question: What does the City gain by repairing the fire alarm panel and is the goal to limit improvement spending while the City works on a plan for recreation facilities?

Answer: The City is limiting major capital spending at recreation facilities until a long term plan is developed for the future of these facilities. Replacing the fire alarm panel is necessary and reflects the minimum amount of spending necessary to continue safe operations. The entire fire alarm system does not require replacement at this time.

Question: Is this the only repair that is required to ensure an operable fire alarm system?

Answer: Yes, the replacement of the fire alarm panel is necessary to upgrade the equipment from analog to digital. The remainder of the system is in good working order and does not require capital improvements at this time.

The Recreation Committee approved this item and recommends that City Council approve the agreement with Johnson Controls as a sole source provider and also that the competitive bidding process is waived for this purchase.

This item was reviewed by Finance Committee on November 21, 2022 and it was approved with no questions.

Providing safe facilities is a critical need and replacement of the fire alarm panel is recommended at this time. This money is currently appropriated in the City Facilities Repair Fund and it is requested that City Council approve the agreement with Johnson Controls for the replacement of the fire alarm panel at Thornton Park Ice Rink and that competitive bidding is waived. It is also requested that City Council approve this item on first reading and as an emergency so Recreation can proceed with the repair to the fire alarm panel quickly.

ORDINANCE NO.

BY:

Authorizing a sole source contract with Johnson Controls, without formal competitive bidding, for the replacement of the fire alarm panel at Thornton Park Ice Rink, in the total amount of \$28,702, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the City's Fire Department has mandated the replacement of the Thornton Park fire alarm panel due to repeated false alarm signals caused by an analog communication system in the panel which was installed in 1986 and does not have modern digital communication technology; and

WHEREAS, the current fire system was manufactured by Simplex, which is currently produced by Johnson Controls, and all peripheral controls are proprietary to Johnson Controls, accordingly, once updated, the panel would be compatible with the existing fire safety system and the false alarms would cease; and

WHEREAS, the entire fire system is not in need of replacement and the purchase of a new panel will ensure a properly working fire alarm system; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 7 of the City Charter authorizes Council to authorize expenditures of the funds of the City without public bidding in dollar amounts exceeding the limit set by Council in specific cases; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Director of Recreation that the City enter into a contract with Johnson Controls for the replacement of the fire alarm panel at Thornton Park Ice Rink, as a sole source, without formal competitive bidding, in the total amount of TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWO DOLLARS (\$28,702).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio:

Section 1. This Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Johnson Controls for the replacement of the fire alarm panel at Thornton Park Ice Rink, as a sole source, without formal competitive bidding, in the total amount of TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWO DOLLARS (\$28,702). Said contract shall be in the form as approved by the Director of Law.

Section 2. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is necessary in the current operation of the City and, therefore, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment and approval by the Mayor.

Enacted

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

Attest:

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JERI E. CHAIKIN  
Clerk of Council

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