

Resolution Requesting the Memphis City Council Hire an Energy Consultant

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Memphis Light Gas and Water Division (MLGW) officially released three separate Request for Proposals (RFP) for electrical transmission, thermal generation, renewables and other alternative resources; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council is expected to consider for approval a recommendation by MLGW for sourcing electric power supply around December 2022 according to the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council needs the most factual and accurate information possible to perform its due diligence in order to make an informed decision that will not increase the financial burden on the ratepayers, MLGW or the City while providing the most reliable service at the best possible price; and

WHEREAS, MLGW has hired power supply consultants, GDS Associates, Inc. to perform advisory services for the RFP process and the City Administration has contracted with an energy expert, EnerVision, to give advice and counsel; and

WHEREAS, in addition to considering the monumental impact this decision will have on the city of Memphis for generations, transparency of the review process is critical to gaining the confidence of the citizenry and demonstrating as public servants our commitment to due diligence and fairness; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of the decision by the Memphis City Council, the Council desires to engage a consultant, expert or professional, independent of MLGW and the Administration, to review the RFP issued by MLGW and report findings to the Council, in preparation to advise the Council in their evaluation of any recommendations from MLGW.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Memphis City Council requests the City Council Chairwoman to immediately authorize the Council attorney in collaboration with the Chairwoman and, or her designee, to (i) develop a proposed scope of work for an expert or consultant, (ii) to research and identify potential experts and consultants and (iii) to make recommendations to the Council on potential consultants or experts to be hired by the Council by April 19, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council consultant will be hired in accordance with all City of Memphis policies and procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total funded amount of the contract awarded to the Council consultant will be at the discretion of the City Council Chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council requests the administration and board of MLGW give any consultant or expert retained by the City Council (i) immediate access to the RFPs issued by MLGW prior to completion of MLGW's evaluation and recommendation, and (ii) proper notice of and access to associated meetings or communications regarding the evaluation of RFPs issued by MLGW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any consultant or expert retained by the City Council shall follow all confidentiality parameters as established by MLGW in Council Resolution dated April 6, 2021, including but not limited to, not disclosing the identify of RFP proposals and, or details of the proposals until GDS Associates, Inc., makes a presentation to the Memphis City Council. The Council Chairwoman will submit in writing to the administration and board of MLGW the consultant hired with the appropriate contact information.

Sponsor
Cheyenne Johnson

Chair
Jamita Swearengen