



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting March 31, 2020
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting April 14, 2020

DATE: March 31, 2020

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Jermel Stevenson, Director of Parks and Recreation
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Lifeguard Stands for Parks and Recreation
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CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing a purchase of ten fiberglass lifeguard stands from Industrial Design Research, Inc. for a total amount of \$281,050.00 for Parks and Recreation to be used for the City's Bay and Gulf Beaches and funded by the State Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund; appropriating \$281,050.00 from the State Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund; and amending the budget to increase expenditures.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance is to approve the purchase for ten Surveyor Jr. fiberglass lifeguard stands for Parks and Recreation's Beach Operations to be used for the Gulf Beaches.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Parks and Recreation's Beach Operations staff has conducted extensive research to identify well-constructed, transportable, and long-lasting lifeguard towers that will withstand the corrosive environment of our beaches. While conducting this research, staff spoke to the City of Huntington Beach, California regarding their lifeguard towers and it was determined that the towers they currently use met the criteria of what Parks and Recreation is looking for. Huntington Beach has used Industrial Design Research's (IDR) Surveyor Jr. model T on their beaches for the past 20 years. The fiberglass towers will withstand the corrosive beach conditions as well as the powerful South Texas ultra-violet rays. The support structure will be fabricated of stainless steel and will include a ramp to safely and quickly exit the tower in emergency situations. The stands will also

include wheels and a hitch to remove them during hurricane conditions for safe storage. Being removeable, is also a condition of the lease with the General Land Office that does not allow a permanent structure on the beach. Over the years, Beach Operations has tested out lifeguard towers constructed of other materials. Wooden lifeguard towers have been burned down and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) towers become brittle in the sunlight after a few years. Parks and Recreation contacted IDR to inquire about their product and discovered their lifeguard towers are also used in Hawaii, Florida, and numerous international locations. The IDR towers have proven to be a rugged product that have withstood the test on beaches all over the United States and the world.

This is a sole source purchase. Industrial Design Research, Inc. is presently the only designer and manufacture of prefabricated observation towers in the United States.

Although the initial cost of the fiberglass tower is higher than what is currently in place, because of the long-life span, the 20-year cost per unit is lower. A Cost Analysis comparing the City of Corpus Christi's previous, current, and proposed Lifeguard Stands, along with a detailed Surveyor Jr. Lifeguard Tower specification brochure have been included in the supporting documents for additional information.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative would to be to continue using the existing PVC life guard stands and to continue researching a suitable replacement that meets all operational needs and can stand up to the environmental conditions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact in FY 2020 for Parks and Recreation will be \$281,050.00 for the one-time purchase of this equipment.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	1032	State Hot Fund
Organization/Activity:	N/A	
Mission Element:	N/A	
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	251850	Unreserved Fund Balance

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance authorizing the purchase with Industrial Design Research, Inc for the purchase of fiberglass lifeguard stands for Parks and Recreation's Beach Operations as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance
Price Sheet
Cost Analysis