

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH RICHARD J. LEIDL, P.C.

WHEREAS, in 2005 the City of Abilene began using the professional services of Richard J. Leidl, a Washington DC legislative and regulatory consultant; and

WHEREAS, in the past Mr. Leidl has assisted the City of Abilene receive federal funding for a variety of City projects; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Leidl proposes to continue to assist the City of Abilene in 2017 with numerous ongoing projects including the Cedar Ridge Reservoir Project; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual costs of such services will not exceed \$72,000 plus expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

PART 1: That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a professional services contract with Richard J. Leidl, P.C. for legislative and regulatory consulting services with authority to extend the contract for additional periods without need of further Council approval.

PART 2: That the contract value shall not exceed the estimated annual amount of \$72,000 plus expenses and will cover the period of January 1 through December 31, 2017.

PASSED this 15th day of December, A.D. 2016.

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY


MAYOR

APPROVED:


CITY ATTORNEY

RICHARD J. LEIDL, P.C.

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November 28, 2016

Mr. Robert Hanna
City Manager
City of Abilene
555 Walnut Street
Abilene, TX 79601

Re: Proposal for Representation in 2017

Dear Mr. Hanna:

Based on our discussions, we submit this proposal to continue to assist the City of Abilene ("City") during 2017 by providing legal services, including law-related services such as legislative lobbying, concerning: (1) efforts to obtain Federal funding and Federal support for various City projects, such as the proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir and the joint efforts with the Cities of Midland and San Angelo to develop long-term water management strategies, and (2) the City's initiatives on Federal legislative and regulatory issues. Our efforts will include working with the City's Congressional delegation for support on legislation and matters with Federal agencies and working directly with Federal agencies to obtain funding or approvals through their programs.

During 2016, we assisted the City on the following Federal matters.

A. Water Projects.

1. Cedar Ridge Reservoir.

During 2016, we continued to assist the City in its efforts to construct a new water reservoir, known as the Cedar Ridge Reservoir. Our efforts included extensive meetings here in Washington, D.C., in March and November with Members and staff of the Congressional delegation and officials at the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. The goals of these meetings have been to advise Federal officials about the reservoir's importance to the City and other communities in the region, to explore Federal funding opportunities, and to lay the foundation for Congressional and Federal agency support for this

significant, long-term project. We recommend that City officials continue this process in 2017 and propose to continue to assist the City with these efforts.

2. West Texas Water Partnership.

We have assisted the City in its efforts to work with Midland and San Angelo in developing water management strategies, including participation in meetings and advising the Congressional delegation and Federal agencies. We propose to continue to assist the City in these efforts, including working with applicable Federal agencies to obtain approvals or funding, addressing Federal legislation that may affect the projects, and seeking Congressional support.

B. Abilene Regional Airport.

During 2016, we continued to assist on issues concerning the Abilene Regional Airport ("Airport"), including updates on the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") Reauthorization Bill, which was passed on a short-term basis and expires on September 30, 2017. Consequently, Congress is expected to consider a new FAA bill next year and we propose to work with the City and the airport trade associations, ACI-NA and AAAE, to support programs that benefit the Airport and oppose legislative initiatives that would be harmful. This effort will include attending regular meetings at ACI-NA Headquarters in Washington to discuss Congressional and Federal agency developments.

In prior years, we also assisted the City in obtaining funding for the FAA control tower and in keeping the FAA TRACON facility at the Airport. We propose to assist the City on similar issues that might arise in order to ensure that the Airport has the necessary infrastructure and capabilities to meet the region's air service needs.

C. Federal Grants and Other Funding.

We have continued to assist the City in its efforts to obtain Federal grant funding and provided information on the availability of funding under various programs. For example, in 2016 we assisted the City on issues involving the Justice Department's Asset Forfeiture Program and the Bureau of Reclamation's water efficiency grants. For 2017, we propose to continue to assist the City in obtaining funding from various Federal programs. This will include advising the City of grant programs, meetings with Federal agencies at the Headquarters level here in Washington, and seeking Congressional support for the City's grant applications.

D. Federal Legislative and Regulatory Issues.

We have routinely tracked Federal legislative and regulatory issues that are of interest to the City, such as the FAA Reauthorizations Bills and the Surface Transportation Authorization Bills, and have advocated for the City's positions.

With the new Administration and a new Congress getting under way in January 2017, it is expected that there will be a wide range of legislative and regulatory initiatives that may impact Abilene and other municipalities. For example, Congress might consider comprehensive tax legislation. If so, the tax exempt status of municipal bonds could be eliminated or revised in a way that increases the costs of financing for Abilene and other cities. There are also proposals for large-scale infrastructure programs, which might provide grant funding for municipal projects.

We propose to monitor these initiatives, advise the City of developments, represent the City's interests with our Congressional delegation and Federal agencies, and seek support for the City's positions.

E. Meetings in Washington, D.C.


In 2017, as in prior years, we arranged and participated in meetings in Washington in March and November with City officials and Members and staff of our Congressional delegation, Federal officials at various agencies, and the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations. We recommend that City officials continue their practice of visiting Washington for these meetings and we propose to continue to assist the City with these efforts. Based on developments, we will advise the City whether additional visits are needed to address specific issues that might arise. In addition, we will continue to keep Members and Congressional staff apprised of developments and meet with them when necessary.

F. Proposal for 2017.

For 2017, we propose to assist the City on the foregoing Federal issues and other ones that might arise and propose a retainer of \$72,000 plus expenses for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, which would be \$6,000 per month plus expenses. This is the same amount that has been in place for the past eight years. Our Billing and Payment Policies are attached. It has been our practice to work very closely with the City as part of its team and we will be in regular contact through telephone calls and emails with City officials to keep you apprised of developments.

If this proposal is acceptable, please confirm the City's agreement by executing a copy of this letter in the space provided and returning it to me. It continues to be a privilege to be a part of the City's team here in Washington and we appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Leidl
President

The foregoing is agreed to:

The City of Abilene

By: _____
Robert Hanna
City Manager

Dated: