

ORDER

(Accepting Proposal from and Authorizing Contract with H2O Innovation Operation & Maintenance, LLC, for Water/Sewer/Utility Billing Services in the City of Laurel)

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laurel seeks to continue privatization of its water/sewer/utility billing services; **and**

**WHEREAS**, by Council order of September 16, 2025, the City authorized Amendment No. 3 of an engineering services agreement with Engineering Xcellence with Kris Riemann & Associates for the readvertising of the privatization contract for Water, Sewer, Utility Billing Services for the City of Laurel including the development of the privatization contract, oversight of bidding, award of contract, start up, and follow-up of the privatization; and

**WHEREAS**, by order on December 2, 2025, the Laurel City Council authorized the administration to advertise for Requests for Qualifications and Pricing Proposals for water, sewer and utility billing department services; **and**

**WHEREAS**, on February 19, 2026, two proposals were received and evaluated by committee; **and**

**WHEREAS**, based on the committee evaluations as outlined in the letter from Kris Riemann, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, it is recommended that the contract for water/sewer/utility billing services be awarded to H2O Innovation Operation & Maintenance, LLC, which offered the best and lowest proposal for water/sewer/utility billing services within the City of Laurel.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** by the Laurel City Council that the proposal for water/sewer/utility billing services offered by H2O Innovation Operation & Maintenance, LLC, be accepted and that Mayor Johnny Magee is authorized to sign the proposed contract (attached hereto as **Exhibit B**). **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Finance Director is hereby authorized to do any and all acts to fulfill said contract and implement the forgoing order.

Motion was made by Councilperson Capers, seconded by Councilperson Scruggs, that the above and foregoing Order be adopted.

Following discussion, Councilperson Capers made a motion to add an **Addendum to Article VIII- Term and Renewal to said contract**, seconded by Councilperson Scruggs, to read as follows:

SECTION 8.03

Should either H2O or the Owner effectuate a termination, H2O at OWNER's written request, agrees to maintain the normal operations and staffing of the Facilities for a period of up to one hundred twenty (120) days after the effective date of termination. (For the purposes of this Agreement "effective date of termination" means the date one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the notice of termination unless the parties shall otherwise mutually agree in writing.) Compensation as defined in ARTICLE VI will apply during the one hundred twenty (120) day period following the effective date of termination, subject to the provisions of ARTICLE VI, during the period after the effective date of termination.

Upon roll call vote of the amended motion, the result was as follows:

YEAS: Capers, Scruggs, Carmichael, Allen

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Kelly, Thomas, Amos

The President thereupon declared the motion as amended carried and called for the original main motion as amended, upon roll call vote, the results were as follows:

YEAS: Capers, Scruggs, Carmichael, Allen

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Kelly, Thomas, Amos

The President declared the motion carried and the Order adopted this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of **MARCH**, A.D. 2026

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PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

ATTESTED AND SUBMITTED TO THE MAYOR BY THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL ON \_\_\_\_\_.

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Clerk of the Council

APPROVED ( ) DATE\_\_\_\_\_

VETOED ( ) DATE\_\_\_\_\_

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Min. of 03/17/2026; Book No. 105; Page. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda Item No. 4E