



## Legislation Text

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**File #: 0225-2021, Version: 1**

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This legislation authorizes the Director of Public Utilities to modify the service contract with Bermex, Inc. in the amount of \$600,000.00 for continuation of Water Meter Reading Services for the Division of Water.

Ordinance 1466-2018 authorized the Director of Public Utilities to enter into contract with Bermex, Inc. to provide Water Meter Reading Services, recurring monthly and quarterly for predetermined routes within the City of Columbus. Services include data collection through manual reads and radio reads using DPU's equipment.

DPU has been working on an Enhanced Meter Program (EMP) program since 2018 which will upgrade the City's metering system. The implementation is expected to continue through 2024. The intent of this contract is to bridge the gap between the start of the AMI implementation and its conclusion, where it is expected that most meters will be able to be read remotely.

The Department of Public Utilities solicited Competitive Bids for these services in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 329 (RFQ008758). 76 vendors were solicited. Two (2) bids were received and opened on 4/27/18. The Division of Water recommended the contract be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidder, Bermex, Inc.

The original contract was for one (1) year, from the date of execution, (August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019) with the option to renew for five (5) additional years based upon mutual agreement, budgeted funds, and approval by City Council. For each renewal year, funds for service shall be reviewed and expenditures shall be approved by ordinance of City Council, and the appropriation and certification of funds by the City Auditor.

The maximum obligation of the City, for service described in this agreement, is limited to the amount of \$600,000.00. If unforeseen issues or difficulties are encountered that would require additional funding, a modification would be required.

**This ordinance is contingent on the passage of the 2021 operating budget, Ordinance 2503-2020.**

**SUPPLIER:** Bermex Inc. Vendor# 015334 (38-3326896), Expires 9/29/22

Bermex Inc. does not hold MBE/FBE status.

The company is not debarred according to the Excluded Party Listing System of the Federal Government or prohibited from being awarded a contract according to the Auditor of State Unresolved Findings for Recovery Certified Search.

**WHEREAS,**

1. Amount of additional funds: Total amount of additional funds needed for this contract modification no. 6 is \$600,000.00. The Division will request additional future modifications as additional work orders are approved. Total contract amount including this renewal is \$4,000,000.00.
2. Reasons additional funds were not foreseen: The need for additional funds was known at the time of the initial contract. This modification is to provide the additional funding necessary for the payment of services to be provided through July 31, 2021.
3. Reason other procurement processes were not used: This is a planned renewal to provide professional services for Meter Reading.
4. How was cost determined: The cost, terms and, conditions are in accordance with the original agreement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \$600,000.00 is budgeted from and in the Water Operating Fund and available for this contract.

\$1,513,032.07 was spent in 2020  
\$1,212,413.39 was spent in 2019  
\$201,809.94 was spent in 2018

**EMERGENCY DESIGNATION:** This ordinance is being submitted as an emergency measure in order to expedite the approval of this contract modification and availability of funds.

To authorize the Director of Public Utilities to modify a service contract with Bermex, Inc. to provide Water Meter Reading Services for the Division of Water; to authorize the expenditure of \$600,000.00 from and within the Water Operating Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$600,000.00)

**WHEREAS,** Ordinance No. 1466-2018, passed by the Columbus City Council on June 11, 2018, authorized the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water, to enter into a contract with Bermex, Inc. for Water Meter Reading Services; and

**WHEREAS,** the contract has previously been extended through July 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** it is now necessary to authorize the expenditure and modify the contract to add \$600,000.00 in funding without extending the term of the contract; and

**WHEREAS,** this modification is in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 329 of the City Code relating to contract modifications and renewals; and

**WHEREAS,** an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to modify the contract for Meter Reading Services with Bermex, Inc., without delay, for the immediate preservation of the public health, peace, property and safety; now, therefore

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of Public Utilities be and hereby is authorized to modify the contract with Bermex, Inc. for the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water.

**SECTION 2.** That said firm shall conduct the work to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Utilities and the Administrator of the Division of Water.

**SECTION 3.** That the expenditure of \$600,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in object class 03 Services, Water Operating Fund 6000, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

**SECTION 4.** That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

**SECTION 5.** That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance.

**SECTION 6.** That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure, and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.

