

Rejection Of Bid On Port Project Urged By Marsh

By BOB MILLER, Times Staff Writer

City Manager Ben Marsh, in his last recommendation to the City Council, has urged that the bid of J. R. Clinton Co. for construction of a dock extension be rejected.

Marsh has indicated the council should, instead, accept the bid of \$1,339,000 from Morrison-Knudsen Co. after receiving more information from the firm. Clinton's bid was low at \$1,317,956.

Council Says No To Bid On Dock

By STEPHEN BRENT, Daily News Staff Writer

Voting 4-3 last night, the City Council rejected the lowest bid it received to build an extension to the municipal dock.

It threw out a \$1,317,956 offer to do the job from the J. R. Clinton Co. and Associates after its second meeting on the subject in one day. Other bids to do the job will be considered Tuesday night.

J. R. Clinton and Co., a local contracting firm, offered to build the extension in a joint venture with the Alaska Plumbing and Heating Co. The Alaska Plumbing and Heating Co. vote against it followed Councilman Joe Yesenski's comment that he feared the company had too little experience in projects as difficult as a port extension in the Cook Inlet.

STILL FRESH in the mind of each councilman was the city's last attempt to build a dock extension. That one collapsed under the weight of several hundred tons of ice about a year ago. Resulting litigation between the city and the contractor, Swalling-General, is still pending.

The council met at lunch to consider the Clinton bid, which was hedged with a provision that it would be void if it was not picked up by today. It heard former City Manager Ben Marsh recommend that the city delay award of the bid until next Tuesday, and heard a Port Commission spokesman say the commission decided Monday to rescind a previous endorsement of the Clinton offer.

No action was taken during the session. But port consultant George Treadwell of Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton was hurriedly summoned from Seattle. He arrived in time for the 7:30 p.m. session.

TREADWELL REFUSED to comment on Clinton's qualifications as a contractor, but he did say that "construction in Cook Inlet amounts to some of the worst conditions in the world."

"If you were making the decision and award on your own behalf," new City Manager Robert Sharp asked, "which concern would you select?" (Sharp was sworn in earlier Tuesday.)

"Well, I'm not making that decision, Mr. Sharp," Treadwell answered. But he added, "The mere fact that the man hasn't done a job of this type before is no proof that he can't do it."

There was another factor working against Clinton. It was that his bid was written so that but \$98,160 of his fee could be chargeable to earthquake insurance funds, leaving \$1,219,796 to come from bond money. The city estimates it has only \$1,195,175 in available bond funds.

AN INTERNATIONAL construction concern, Morrison-Knudsen, has offered to do the job at \$2,154,400 more than Clinton, but under the Knudsen bid, \$184,180 may come from insurance money.

Both Councilmen William Besser and Richard L. Silberer had some interest in Clinton's offer. Silberer is vice president of Alaska Plumbing and Heating, although he said he owns no stock in the company. He abstained from voting. Besser, who voted to accept the bid, is an accountant retained by the company.

Voting with Besser were Joe Josephson and Bennie Leonard.

Against accepting the bid were Mrs. Pauline Sharrock, Mrs. Wilda Hudson, Yesenski, and Mayor George M. Sullivan.

Low Bid On That City Dock

With an offer to do the job for \$1,317,956, the Anchorage construction concern of J. R. Clinton Inc. has submitted a low bid to build a 271-foot extension to the city dock.

But though the bid opened yesterday was \$21,544 lower than any other, it was substantially higher than the \$1,254,100 the city's port consultant previously estimated the project would cost.

THE CITY may take up to 30 days before awarding the contract, according to the bid offer. Once a contract is awarded, however, the winner will have 180 days to complete the job. If the job takes longer the winner may be penalized up to \$250 a day.

Plans call for financing the project with existing port-construction funds, of which some \$1.3 million is now available.

The city embarked upon a similar project two years ago, only to see the partially completed dock shatter under the weight of several tons of ice.

THE SEATTLE concern of Swalling-General had been building the ill-fated extension. Swalling-General submitted a bid yesterday, but at \$1,750,879, it was the highest of the five opened.

Each company submitted plans calling for a 69-foot wide extension (the base bid), and an alternate calling for a 47-foot-wide one. J. R. Clinton was lowest bidder on the alternate plans as well as the base ones.

Council Approves Plans for New Dock

Plans to build a 271-foot extension to the city port dock won unanimous approval from the City Council yesterday.

ALTHOUGH plans came through intact, there were several amendments to the proposed contract agreement made during the hour-long luncheon meeting.

The council decided to open bids April 12, nine days later than originally proposed; and award the contract April 22, a day earlier than previously scheduled.

It was also decided to require the contractor to carry all-risk insurance, and to urge interested contractors to attend a pre-bid conference.

THOUGH the vote to proceed was unanimous, three councilmen were absent. They were Joe Josephson, Dick Albers and Joe Yesenski. Josephson and Albers are out of town. Yesenski, who is not, voiced doubts at a regular council meeting Tuesday about proceeding with the million-dollar program.

Construction of the dock extension is scheduled to begin May 1, with completion scheduled for Oct. 31.

It will be financed with existing port-construction funds, of which \$1.3 million is now available.

THE CITY embarked upon a similar port expansion two years ago, only to see the partially completed dock shatter under the weight of several tons of ice. The dock was later demolished.

Drawn by Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton (TAMS) engineers, the plans represent the first phase of a planned 600-foot extension to the existing dock, which is now largely tied up by Sea-Land Freight Services, Inc.

A port economic study intended to qualify the facility for federal Economic Development Administration funds is due April 15.

The TAMS specifications call for bids on a 69-foot-wide dock extension, with an alternate bid for a 47-foot extension.

Administrative Move Cancels Port Position

The \$12,000-a-year position of port engineer at the Port of Anchorage has been wiped out in an administrative move by Russ Painter, port director.

Painter today confirmed reports that he has told the engineer, Bill Potter, his job will end April 1. Potter, who has held the job for the past two years, could not be reached for comment today.

The job was done away with, Painter said, after a staff study showed the port's engineering projects can be done by the engineering section of the Public Works Department and the port's consulting engineers, Tippetts, Abbett, McCarthy and Stratton.

Originally, the job title was port maintenance supervisor, Painter said, but later it was changed to port engineer even though Potter is not a registered civil engineer.

Painter said his action does not require the approval of the Port Commission and the City Council. "It's an administrative decision," he said.

A penalty to the contractor for running over the completion date also was changed by the council from \$100 a day to \$250 per day.

Dock Extension Plans Approved By Councilmen

City Councilmen unanimously approved plans for construction of a 271-foot north extension to the Port of Anchorage dock at a special noon session Thursday.

The plans, submitted by the engineering firm of Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton (TAMS), call for the project to be completed on Oct. 31, at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million which is available in port construction funds.

Bids are to be advertised beginning March 12 and they will be opened April 3. Award of the contract is set for April 12 and a notice to proceed will be issued on April 22, according to the present schedule.

Plan specifications went to City Atty. Karl Walter Jr., for review and the council asked that an all risk insurance in an amount to be specified by the city attorney be included in the contract and furnished by the contractor.

A penalty to the contractor for running over the completion date also was changed by the council from \$100 a day to \$250 per day.

Port Board Approves Bid

The Anchorage Port Commission unanimously agreed Monday night to recommend the Anchorage contracting firm of J. R. Clinton Inc., to construct a 271-foot north extension to the Port of Anchorage.

Clinton, one of five companies bidding for the job, submitted an apparent low bid of \$1,317,956 to construct the 69-foot wide extension.

The recommendation is scheduled to go before the City Council tonight.

City Manager Ben Marsh attended the meeting and according to Russ Painter, port director, the two men are preparing a financial statement for the City Council showing funds available in the port's construction fund to finance the project.

A timetable for construction established by City Council at a special meeting on Feb. 29 calls for the contract to be awarded on April 23. A notice to proceed will be issued on May 1 and construction is scheduled to begin on May 10. Completion date is set for Oct. 31.

Contractor Changes Date On Port Bid

J. R. Clinton Co. Inc. and Associates has changed its bid qualification date for acceptance in the hope the City Council will reconsider Tuesday and award it the \$1.3 million contract for construction of the extension to the dock at the Port of Anchorage.

Clinton's low bid on the project originally was submitted with the qualification that it had to be accepted no later than April 17. Meeting Tuesday night, the City Council decided 4-3 not to award Clinton the contract.

Today, J. R. Clinton explained he had qualified the bid for April 17 because that was the last day he could get a firm order in on Japanese steel he planned to use in the construction.

Last weekend, however, he said he had located some steel in Oregon that meets the contract specifications. Since it would be available sooner for shipment to Alaska, he could extend the qualification date for the bid until the 24th, the day after the council holds its next regular meeting.

Clinton indicated the steel pipe will have to be here by the latter part of June in order to allow his firm enough time to get it installed during this construction season.

"I am fully aware that my bid has died from a time standpoint," Clinton said, "but I feel I've been done a grievous injustice, and it is within the discretionary powers of the council to extend the date for acceptance of my bid if they want. It is entirely in their hands."

Discussion of the port project will come up again Tuesday night when the council is slated to award the contract. Members of the council appear to be leaning toward the \$1,339,500 bid of Morrison-Knudsen, an international construction firm with headquarters in Boise, Idaho.

Clinton's bid was \$1,317,956, but the city stands to receive less insurance money for the project if the low bid is accepted.

The city has \$1,195,175 on hand for the construction but certain parts of the contract are payable from insurance funds the city received because of earthquake damage.

Because of unit price differences, the Clinton bid qualifies for only \$98,000 in insurance money and the city would end up about \$25,000 short of funds needed to pay the contractor.

The Morrison-Knudsen bid, however, qualifies for \$184,000 which would give the city an excess of about \$40,000.

Administrative Move Cancels Port Position

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Port Repair Site Studied

The Anchorage Port Commission Monday evening took under study a proposed marine repair facility to be erected in the Port of Anchorage beach area.

JOHN D. GIFFORD, representing Hightide Marine Enterprises, told the commission of plans to build the repair site and submitted a lease proposal to the commission for approval. Gifford at present has a use permit on Tideland Parcel No. 3 and was seeking a firm lease for financing purposes.

A member of the commission estimated that the Port of Anchorage area lost in the neighborhood of \$1 million last year in revenue from repairs that could not be handled here.

In other action, the commission referred the Trans-World Alaska site development plan to the city council for a clarification of the legality of the lease and interpretation of site development requirements.

TRANS-WORLD Alaska, which plans a warehouse facility on lot 5-B in the port area, was required by lease terms to submit construction plans on the site by Jan. 31. The company said it has spent \$15,000 on site development, including fencing and extensive cinder fills on the lot.

Port Board Okays Plans For New Dock

The Anchorage Port Commission Monday night approved plans submitted by the engineering firm of Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton (TAMS) for a 271-foot north extension to the Anchorage dock.

The commission in its decision stipulated the acceptance of the plans was subject to the approval and recommendations of all other departments concerned.

Seven agencies, the fire department, Municipal Light and Power, building division, engineer division, telephone utility, water utility and Port of Anchorage staff are reviewing the plans today.

City Manager Ben Marsh said he had asked for a written report from these agencies by Thursday. The extension, as outlined to the commission by Tetsuya Yasuda, an engineer with TAMS, will cost about \$1.3 million.

Yasuda said the extension will be built of poured-in-place concrete and steel pipe piles similar to the existing dock designed by TAMS and built in the same manner.

When completed the dock will be expected to withstand heavy ice pressure and wind up to 100 miles per hour, Yasuda said. A previous dock extension was severely damaged by ice last winter and was torn down.

Yasuda said his firm is working on plans for an additional 329-foot extension that will extend the dock to 600 feet. Approximately \$3 million will be needed for the completed dock.

Funding for the dock is expected to come from \$1 million in funds available and \$2 million in federal funds. The city plans to ask the Economic Development Administration for \$1 million and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for another million.

Final approval of the dock extension rests with the city council. Marsh said such approval could come by Feb. 27.

Port officials have indicated they would like to see the project go up for bids as soon as possible but a pending economic study to accompany applications for federal funds may delay the bid invitation until after April 15.

Dock Contract Still Unsettled

Anchorage Port Commission members who last week agreed to recommend acceptance of the low bidder on a new dock facility have had second thoughts on the subject.

THE COMMISSION had agreed that G. Howard Clinton and Associates of Seattle, with a bid of \$1,317,956, should get the job of replacing the dock damaged in 1967 when Inlet ice tore it out of service. Clinton had qualified his bid by serving the offer was good until April 17.

The Anchorage City Council is meeting today at noon to take action on the bid.

In the meantime, commission members last night qualified their recommendations to the City Council by adopting a motion to have the Clinton bid reviewed by the city's legal officer and to award the bid only if the bid is found to be in the city's best interest.

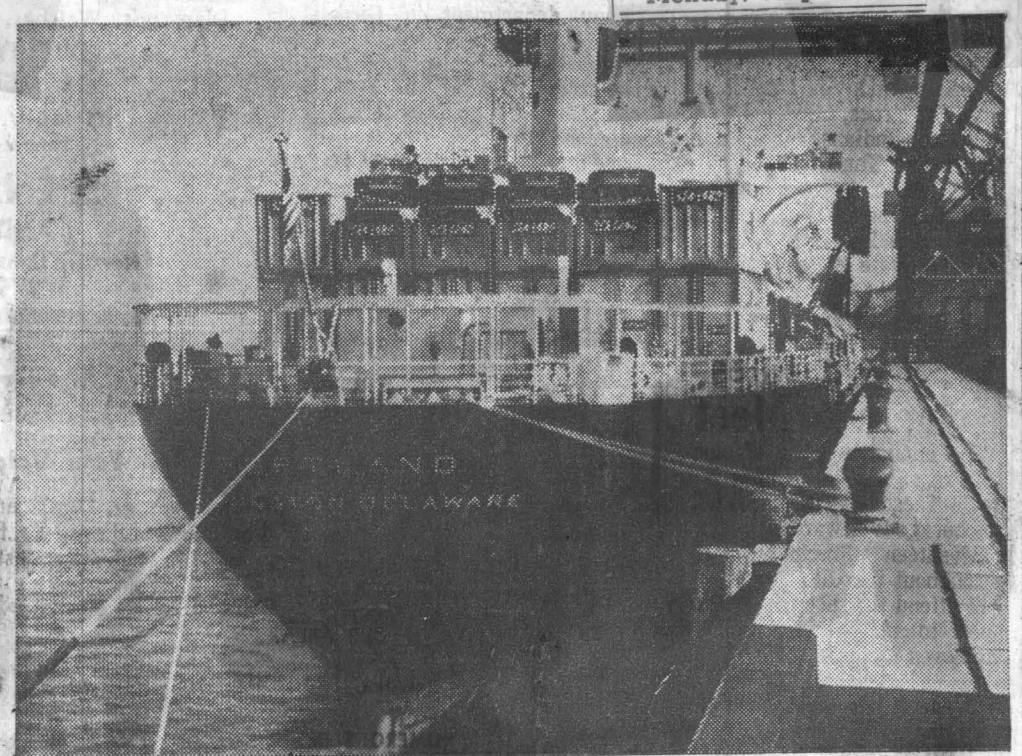
THE POSSIBILITY that the bid might not be in the city's best interest, despite being the low bid, was raised by commission member William

O'Neil who said another bidder, Morrison-Knudsen of Boise, Idaho, had bid \$1,339,500 but would use some \$90,000 less of bond monies in the construction. The money would come instead from earthquake insurance funds, resulting in less cost to the city on the long run, despite M-K's higher initial bid. The difference was \$22,000.

Strenuous objections to the action came from commission member Wallace Martens who argued the bid should go to Clinton and that use of earthquake fund money was not a condition of the original bid.

In the only other matter to be considered during the evening, the commission approved a motion to have the city study the possibility of paving the Sea-Land marshalling area at the dock, with the city to pay for the paving work and Sea-Land to reimburse the city over a five-year period at a reasonable rate of interest.

Sea-Land had asked for the paving in a letter from J. A. Baker, operations manager, Alaska Division, who estimated the cost of \$200,000.



SS PORTLAND ON FIRST VOYAGE HERE

Sea Land's new ship, the SS Portland, pulled into the Port of Anchorage for the first time Sunday morning on the first of about three voyages. The new ship is making runs to Anchorage while the SS Anchorage is in dry-dock in Seattle for routine maintenance. The Portland has its bridge located aft rather than midship and can carry 350 vans instead of 300. Plying between Seattle and Anchorage, the Portland will arrive here again May 29 and for the last time June 9. The Portland's load this time included the first eight of 40 new school buses to be delivered over the Port of Anchorage for use in Alaska.