

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** June 12, 2023

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager  
 William Royston, Recreation and Parks Director  
 Shantell McClam, Purchasing Director

**Council Action Requested:**

Resolution Awarding Contract for Structural Repairs to The Gemeinhaus and Butner House (Distillery House) at Historic Bethabara Park (Northwest Ward)

**Strategic Focus Area:** Livable Neighborhoods

**Strategic Objective:** Expand Open Space and Recreational Facilities

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



**Summary of Information:**

The Gemeinhaus tower has been leaking since it was installed in 1788, so much that in 1808 it was completely removed from the building, slightly redesigned, and reinstalled. Water infiltration at the tower recently caused a large area of the Saal ceiling to fall that can be unsafe for the citizens using this facility. Because of the water-related repairs needed at Bethabara Park, design and construction repairs to the Gemeinhaus tower are of the highest priority.

The Butner House (Distillery House) has undertaken water above and below that has irreparably damaged the Distillery front porch. Failing roofing has allowed water to enter the porch from above damaging the roof structure, porch ceiling, columns, and porch decking. The porch needs to be removed from the building, reconstructed, and reinstalled.

Because these buildings are protected under the City’s historic preservation ordinance and on the National Register of Historic Places, it is recommended that a contract be awarded in an amount not to exceed \$350,000, to a licensed contractor for the rehabilitation of the buildings with historic preservation experience.

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	FC June 13, 2023	<b>Action</b>	Approval
<b>For</b>	Unanimous	<b>Against</b>	

**Remarks:**

Funds for this project have been identified in FY 2023-24 Capital Improvement Plan with Two Thirds General Obligation Bonds.

M/WBE comment: The low bidder of this project agrees to subcontract goals other than those established for the project; therefore, pursuant to the City's M/WBE Policy, the Internal M/WBE Committee and the Citizen's M/WBE Advisory Committee (CAC) and consider all documentation of the bidder's good faith efforts.

This project will be advertised on the City and State websites and with several electronic plan rooms. Notifications will be sent to all local M/WBE and regional HUB businesses on a weekly basis.