

**City of Omaha**  
**John W. Ewing, Jr., Mayor**

**Office of the Mayor**  
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April 16, 2026

To Members of the Omaha City Council:

I am writing today to urge you to vote “yes” to the long-awaited upgrade to the Papillion Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility.

Voting “yes” on Amendment 1 to the CMAR contract on Tuesday ensures that Omaha can provide reliable wastewater treatment for the growing metro while upholding the integrity of a deliberate process and faith in the City as a partner and utility provider.

While terms of this contract have been debated in public, I assure you that we have protected the interests of the City and its citizens in two key ways:

- **Contractor selection followed a legal, fair and transparent process:**
  - A committee including representatives from the Mayor’s Office and Omaha City Council chose McCarthy Building Companies Inc. as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) two years ago, following an open and competitive process outlined by state statute.
  - Omaha Public Works, HDR, and McCarthy then collaborated for 18 months to develop a Final Design that accounted for the criticality and complexity of the work to build the largest project of its kind in the U.S. The City Council approved McCarthy following a 6-0 vote on Sept. 17, 2024.
  - This effort included a review by a third party, Jacobs, and followed industry standards and best practices. The resulting Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) includes over \$40 million in contingencies and potential savings, providing cost certainty for Omaha and the ratepayers that contribute to our Sewer Revenue Fund. Risk has been carefully managed up front, protecting the City from the sticker shock that often comes with costly change orders during construction.
- **Fair consideration to Hawkins was already provided by the selection committee**

- Hawkins' unsolicited proposal has no legal standing or basis for consideration. The price provided with this unsolicited proposal is nonbinding and based on incomplete information. It does not adequately consider or address risk, and therefore considered a guaranteed *minimum* price, subject to unquantifiable change orders, cost escalation, and unmanageable risk to our ratepayers. It is therefore incomparable to the McCarthy GMP.

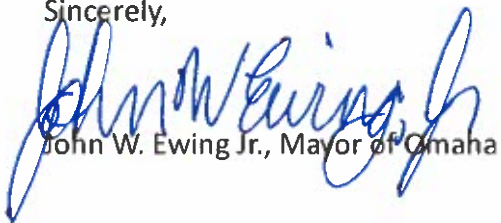
I urge you to stick with a careful, well-thought-out and well-executed process to get this necessary health and environmental project done carefully and on time, given the six-year construction timeline. We need to move forward now.

If you have any questions or need more details, I have full faith in our team - reach out to Mr. Wiesen and Mr. Theiler to answer your questions.

Please vote "yes" on Tuesday on Amendment 1 of the CMAR contract.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John W. Ewing Jr.", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "E".

John W. Ewing Jr., Mayor of Omaha