THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: February 14, 2023

Subject: Interlocal Agreement with Buncombe County to Select a Vendor to Manage and Implement the Blue Horizons Project

Staff Resource(s): Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to select a vendor to manage and implement the Blue Horizons Project (BHP).

Background:

- Resolution 16-64 established a joint City, County, and Utility Energy Innovation Task Force (EITF) to address 1.) prevention of Duke Energy's Peaker Plant, and 2.) provide clean renewable energy for Western North Carolina.
- In 2020 the EITF accomplished the initial goal to prevent the Duke Energy Peaker Plant and through Resolution 20-18 dissolved as a City/County Task Force and established the Blue Horizons Project Community Council (BHPCC).
- The City and County have representation on this council.
- The Blue Horizons Project Community Council advises the Blue Horizons Project for the purpose of achieving the community-wide renewable energy goal established in Resolution 18-279.
- In 2020 the City and County utilized an interlocal agreement to co-fund and select a vendor, the Green Built Alliance, to manage and implement The Blue Horizons Project and the Blue Horizons Project Community Council.
- The City and County have both equally funded this project for the past three years and now need to re-advertise for these services.
- The City of Asheville will enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to give the authority to issue a joint RFP and select a vendor to implement the deliverables of the Blue Horizons Project.
- The City will have a role in selecting and negotiating with the responsive bidder.
- This new interlocal agreement will be in place until 2042 since that is the year referenced for the community-wide renewable energy goal established in Resolution 18-279 and Resolution 17-12-06.
- Requests for approvals of contracts with, or payments to, selected vendors will be brought to City Council separately

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- Environment and Safety Council Committee, January 24, 2023, voted 2-0 to recommend to the full City Council adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Buncombe County to select a vendor to manage and implement the BHP.

Pro(s):

- Re-commits the City and County to support the implementation of the Blue Horizons Project
- Puts resources in the community to drive progress on the community-wide renewable energy goal
- Supports Council's strategic priority to for equitable & affordable housing & stability

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- None.
- The Interlocal Agreement only concerns the joint City-County process for selecting vendors for the Blue Horizons Project going forward.
- Requests for approval of funding for selected vendors will be brought to City Council at a separate time, after selection by the City-County.
- The Sustainability adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year includes $100,000 to contract with the Green Built Alliance to manage and implement the Blue Horizons Project. Sustainability Staff have requested that same budget amount for Fiscal Year 2024.
- If a responsive bidder is selected, a contract will be issued in FIscal Year 2023-24.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to select a vendor to manage and implement the Blue Horizons Project.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY REGARDING THE PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE SELECTION OF VENDORS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLUE HORIZONS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-461, units of local government may enter into agreements with each other in order to jointly exercise any power or function of local government; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No 13-288, the City adopted a resolution supporting a clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No. 8-05 the City adopted a resolution incorporating the recommendations from the Energy Innovation Task Force into the Sustainability Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution 20-19 the City Manager was authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to issue a join request for proposals to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project;

WHEREAS, the Blue Horizons Project will engage our community to provide cost effective services, programs and new products they value through investment in clean renewable ways to power Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution 18-279 and per Buncombe County Resolution 17-12-06 a goal to transition the community to 100% renewable energy by 2042 was established; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Horizons Project assists the City and County achieve the community-wide goal of 100% renewable energy this interlocal agreement shall remain in effect until 2042;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County regarding the process to be followed in the selection of vendors to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project until the year 2042.

Read, approved and adopted this the 14th day of February, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney