THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Subject: Contract with AECOM to update the Sustainability Management Plan into a Climate Action Plan

Staff Resource(s): Amber Weaver, Sustainability Officer

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with AECOM to update the Sustainability Management Plan into a Municipal Climate Action Plan.

Background:

- The Office of Sustainability aims to update the City's 2009 Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) to incorporate newly adopted sustainability resolutions into one cohesive document, a *Municipal Climate Action Plan*.
- Asheville's Sustainability Management Plan identified its vision and guiding principles as making decisions that balance the values of environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic vitality.
- Municipal Climate Action Plan will bring together the SMP, updated resolutions, and newly adopted resolutions around climate change and climate justice.
- This aligns with Council Strategic Priority C.3: Develop a renewable energy action plan to transition municipal operations to 100% renewable energy by 2030.
- The *Municipal Climate Action Plan* will incorporate the City's climate resilience work along with recently adopted climate resolutions; address high-impact projects to build a more resilient organization; and continue to address the City's goals for carbon mitigation.
- On January 28, 2020, City Council passed Resolution 20-25 Declaration of a Climate Emergency, reiterating the need for the City to identify resources required to meet the City's aggressive climate goals.
- In April 2021, the City issued an RFP addressing the Office of Sustainability's need to organize and condense adopted resolutions since the adoption of the 2009 Sustainability Management Plan. Four (4) responses were received. Two (2) were considered non-responsive for not complying with the City's Business Inclusion Policy.

Bidder Name	Bidder City	Bidder State	Bid Amount	ABI Policy
Energetics	Columbia	Maryland	$68,937	Yes
AECOM	Winston-Salem	North Carolina	$99,400	Yes
ICMA	Washington	District of Columbia	$193,864	Non-responsive
Sia Partners	Charlotte	North Carolina	$69,600	Non-responsive

- AECOM was selected as the most qualified in addressing both climate resiliency and carbon mitigation through their diverse staff and sustainability projects nationwide. AECOM is a global leader in integrated sustainability and climate planning, leveraging a proven process to identify and prioritize actionable opportunities that keep clients moving toward their goals. AECOM will

partner with FernLeaf Interactive, based in Asheville, which has deep experience helping clients achieve climate solutions.
- This RFP also required responders to show compliance with the City's adopted Business Inclusion Policy.
- AECOM meets these requirements by expending 12% of the total amount of the contract with a MBE/WBE.

Council Goal(s):
- A Clean and Healthy Environment
- A Fiscally Resilient City

Committee(s):
- Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment - June 16, 2021
- SACEE Resiliency Working Group - Approved May 6, 2021

Pro(s):
- Supports Resolution 11-77 80% Carbon Reduction Goal, Resolution 18-279 100% Renewable Energy Goal and Resolution 20-25 Climate Emergency Declaration.
- The Municipal Climate Action Plan will:

  1.) Incorporate adopted resolutions since the 2009 Sustainability Management Plan into one document, a *Municipal Climate Action Plan*;

  2.) Identify high-impact projects to achieve adopted sustainability goals by City Council Resolutions; and

  3.) Provide estimated costs associated with achieving adopted sustainability goals set forth by City Council.

Con(s):
- None

Fiscal Impact:
- The contract will total $95,000 from the FY22 Office of Sustainability budget.
- Funding is already budgeted and available.

Suggested Motion:
- Move to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with AECOM to update the 2009 Sustainability Management Plan into a *Municipal Climate Action Plan*.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH AECOM TO UPDATE THE SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT PLAN INTO A MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes to enter into contracts for services with other entities; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No. 18-279, the City established a goal to transition to 100% renewable energy from fossil fuel energy by December 31, 2030; and

WHEREAS, Asheville City Council adopted Resolution No. 20-25, declaring a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2009 Sustainability Management Plan needs to be revised in order to incorporate the goals of the aforementioned Resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the City issued an RFP for updating the Sustainability Management Plan into a Municipal Climate Action Plan on April 5, 2021 and AECOM was selected through a competitive process as the most qualified firm to update the Sustainability Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the contract aligns with City Council 2036 Vision of a Clean and Healthy Environment; and

WHEREAS, the contract will update work identified in Council's Strategic Priorities;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract with AECOM in the amount of $95,000 to update the City's Sustainability Management Plan into a Municipal Climate Action Plan.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 8th day of June 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney