THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: July 27, 2021

Subject: Blue Horizons Project Implementation Contract

Staff Resource(s): Amber Weaver, Sustainability Officer
Bridget Herring, Energy Program Coordinator

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with the Green Built Alliance to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Background:

- On January 28, 2020, City Council authorized Resolution 20-18 and created the Blue Horizons Community Council to achieve the community-wide renewable energy goal.
- On January 28, 2020, City Council approved Resolution 20-19 and authorized an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to issue a joint Request for Proposals (RFP) to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council for the next three years, depending on availability of funding.
- This will be the second year of the three-year period before reissuing an RFP for this work.
- Buncombe County advertised the RFP on May 6, 2020, and the County received responses on June 12, 2020.
- The County received one response from the Green Built Alliance.
- The City and County contracted with Green Built Alliance in fiscal year 2021 to implement the Blue Horizons Project but are required to renew annually based on budget availability.
- The Blue Horizons Project will continue to engage our community to provide cost effective services, programs, and products through investment in clean renewable ways to power Buncombe County and the City of Asheville to support the community-wide renewable energy goal and climate emergency resolution.
- As of July 2021, the Blue Horizons Project has facilitated 100 homeowners to get solar power for their homes.
- The Rocky Mountain Institute has created a map to display where the impact has occurred to date.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The Business Inclusion Manager conducted outreach through social media and community and business partners.
- City and County staff also conducted an optional virtual Q&A meeting.
- No MWBE firms submitted bids.

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- The Green Built Alliance has been managing and implementing the Blue Horizons Project for the past three years which will establish continuity with the continued program management.

- Buncombe County is also contracting with the Green Built Alliance in the amount of $125,000 for the implementation of the Blue Horizons Project.

Con(s):
- None

Fiscal Impact:
- $100,000 will be contributed by the City from the FY22 Office of Sustainability budget.
- Funding is already budgeted and available.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with the Green Built Alliance to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GREEN BUILT ALLIANCE TO IMPLEMENT AND MANAGE THE BLUE HORIZONS PROJECT AND BLUE HORIZONS PROJECT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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, 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, City residents and businesses will have a greater ability to participate in the Blue Horizons Project through the Blue Horizons Project Community Council and seize the opportunity to use renewable energy and participate in energy efficiency and demand side management programs to increase the City's resilience;

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020 through Resolution 20-18 City Council dissolved the joint City-County Energy Innovation Task Force and replaced it with the Blue Horizons Project Community Council which will be implemented and managed by a local non-profit to be select by an RFP process; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020 through Resolution 20-19 City Council authorized an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to issue a joint request for proposals ("RFP") for a local non-profit organization to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council; and

WHEREAS, the RFP was advertised by Buncombe County on May 6, 2020 and only one response was received, the one from Green Built Alliance.

WHEREAS, the City and County contracted with Green Built Alliance in fiscal year 2021 to implement the Blue Horizons Project but are required to renew annually based on budget availability.

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 the Green Built Alliance in the amount of $100,000 to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 27th day of July 2021.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney