THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

Subject: Natural Resource Defense Council Food Matters Grant Funds

Staff Resource(s): Amber Weaver, Office of Sustainability
Kiera Bulan, Sustainability Coordinator

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept funding in the amount of $16,500 from Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) for the Office of Sustainability's food waste reduction work and a budget amendment in the amount of $16,500 to appropriate the funding in the City's Sustainability Budget.

Background:

- In November 2017, the Asheville City Council approved the Municipal Food Policy Goals and Action Plan by adopting Resolution 17-257.
- The adopted plan included a focus area of Resource Stewardship.
- Within the resource stewardship focus area, the plan outlines a need to create an actionable plan for city food waste recovery, composting, and redistribution.
- In FY21, the NRDC project selected the City of Asheville's Office of Sustainability to participate in a Southeast regional cohort with Atlanta, Memphis, Nashville, and Orlando to develop food waste reduction initiatives.
- In FY21, the City of Asheville's Office of Sustainability initiated pilot projects to increase food waste reduction and educate residents on opportunities for decreasing residential and commercial food waste.
    - At the January 12, 2021 City Council meeting, the City Council approved this budget ordinance and resolution 21-6 authorizing the City to accept FY21 grant funds to support the implementation of the City's Food Waste Reduction Campaign.
    - Utilizing the FY21 funds, the project:
        - produced a food waste reduction proclamation,
        - assisted the Food Waste Solutions-WNC networking entity to launch a new public education website (www.wncfoodwaste.org),
        - developed and implemented a community engagement campaign and social media campaign,
        - printed education materials for community partners, and a home food waste challenge.
    - Additionally, food waste snapshot audits were conducted at three city facilities to better understand waste reduction and diversion opportunities.
    - During FY21 internal preparations and logistics were completed to facilitate the launch of a public food scrap drop off pilot project in FY22.
- NRDC extended new funding into FY22 to deepen connections and collaboration with Buncombe County and continue strategic food waste reduction work in Asheville and Buncombe County.
- FY22 grant funds will be used for food waste reduction outreach and education efforts.
- Project efforts include:
    - Public Food Waste Reduction collaboration with Buncombe County staff,
    - Snapshot food waste audits at city and county facilities,
    - Community compost drop off pilot program launch, and
    - Public outreach and education campaign.
- NRDC Grant recipients are not required to provide a cash match.

Council Goal(s):

- A well-planned and livable community
- A clean and healthy environment
- A connected and engaged community

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Helps support City's Food Policy Action Plan Resolution while leveraging NRDC funding
- Engage with regional partner cities to connect, collaborate, and share best practices
- Collaborate with Buncombe County staff to develop and execute waste reduction initiatives

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- No City match is required.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept funding from the Natural Resource Defense Council and a budget amendment in the amount of $16,500 to appropriate the funding in the City's Sustainability budget.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Ordinance Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCE DEFENSE COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING THE CITY'S FOOD POLICY ACTION PLAN THROUGH INCREASED FOOD WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-240.1 a city is authorized to acquire funds by grant and other methods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is committed to reducing food waste, and addressing food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has an opportunity to preserve landfill space by reducing food waste generation and increasing compost initiatives; AND

WHEREAS, City Council approved Resolution 21-6 on January 12th, 2021 authorizing the City Manager to accept grant funding of $16,100 from the natural Resource Defense Council to support implementation of the City's inaugural Food Waste REduction Campaign;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to accept additional grant funding of $16,500 from the Natural Resource Defense Council to support the implementation of the City's Food Waste Reduction Campaign, and execute all documents necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 24th day of August 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That the City of Asheville Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $16,500 as a grant from the Natural Resource Defense Council and amend the Sustainability Fund as follows:

SUSTAINABILITY FUND

Revenues:

Miscellaneous Revenue	$16,500.00
Total Revenues	$16,500.00

Appropriations:

Contracted Services	$16,500.00
Total Appropriations	$16,500.00

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this the 24th day of August, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney