THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: October 27, 2020

Subject: NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) Backyard Composting Grant

Staff Resource(s): Jes Foster, Sanitation Division Manager, and Amber Weaver, Sustainability Officer

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept grant funding if awarded, from the NCDEQ for the DEACS Backyard Composting Grant.

Background:

- Apply for grant funds for outreach and education efforts to increase backyard and community-based composting.
- Outreach efforts will include:
    - Backyard composting instructional mailer
    - Brochures, stickers, and posters
    - Fifty (50) Backyard compost and 600 kitchen countertop bins will be purchased and distributed through this grant
    - Social media promotion
- DEACS Grant recipients are required to provide a match equal to or exceeding 20% of the requested grant funds.
- Grant activities and funds will be utilized in collaboration with FY21 Service Contract with Asheville Greenworks for community compost education and outreach activities.

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Helps support the City's waste reduction goal while leveraging state funding.

Con(s):

- This is a one time grant. Over the last 4+ years, the Office of Sustainability contracts with Asheville GreenWorks for $30k to implement environmental education outreach which includes recycling and composting workshops.

Fiscal Impact:

- If awarded, the City will be required to provide a match of $3,600, or 20% of the requested grant funds of $18,000, totaling $21,600 for the project.
- The match will be covered using available funds in the Sanitation Division and Sustainability operating budgets.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept grant funding if awarded, from NCDEQ.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED, GRANT FUNDING FROM THE N.C. DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING BACKYARD AND COMMUNITY-BASED COMPOSTING

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. 160A-17.1 the City is authorized to apply for and accept grants from the federal and state government; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is committed to reducing organic waste being sent to the landfill; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has an opportunity to support residents in learning composting techniques for efficient backyard organics recycling; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville intends to apply for a grant totaling $18,000 through N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality's DEACS Backyard Composting grant opportunity, and if awarded, the City will be required to provide a match of $3,600, or 20% of requested grant funds;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for, and if awarded, accept grant funding of $18,000 from N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality to support and increase backyard composting in Asheville and to execute any and all documents necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 27th day of October 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney