THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: July 28, 2020

Subject: Aggregated Solar Projects

Staff Resource(s): Jade Dundas, Capital Projects Director

Action Requested: Adoption of resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with MB HAYNES Corporation DBA HAYNES Solar in the amount of $788,835 for the Aggregated Solar Projects; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $78,884 (10%).

Background:

- On September 24, 2019, City Council approved an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County in Resolution 19-214 to conduct feasibility site assessments and issue a joint solicitation for onsite renewable energy systems.
- This project was a joint venture between the City, Buncombe County, AB Tech, Asheville City Schools, and Buncombe County Schools, and will result in the installation of 7 MW of solar energy at 46 sites.
- The objective of this partnership with Buncombe County is to lead by example and prioritize highly visible sites as well as demonstrate fiscal responsibility through economies of scale.
- This project will see the installation of a combined total of 259 kW of solar photovoltaic energy on five (5) City-owned facilities:
    - Burton Street Community Center
    - Linwood Crump Shiloh Community Center
    - Fire Station #10
    - Fire Station #11
    - Wall Street Parking Deck
- On April 8, 2020, Buncombe County advertised the project. The County received and opened bids on June 19, 2020. The names, bid amounts, and all alternates of the six (6) bids that were submitted are listed below:

MB HAYNES Corporation DBA HAYNES Solar, Asheville, NC	$ 788,835
Eagle Solar and Light, Birmingham, AL	$ 810,036
Influent Energy, Kansas City, MO	$ 901,429
Helios Energy, Fairview, TN [Note (1)]	$ -
8M Solar, Cary, NC [Note (2)]	$ 676,116
Pine Gate Renewables, Asheville, NC	$ 999,786

Note(1): The Helios Energy bid was determined to be non-responsive, and could not be accepted per County policy and general statutes. Their bid was non-responsive because the bid documents required a Bid Bond. Helios Energy did not include a bid bond and therefore could not be opened.

Note(2): The 8M Solar bid was disqualified due to a violation of specific instructions given in the bid solicitation by contacting a contractor of the project to request information on the bid specifications.

- MB HAYNES Corporation DBA HAYNES Solar was the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- County staff performed outreach to minority and women owned businesses through solicitation processes which include posting on the State's Interactive Purchasing System and requiring prime contractors to reach out to Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) service providers for subcontracted services. No MWBE firms submitted bids with this prime contractor and all work will be self performed by the prime contractor.

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- Buncombe County Commission - July 21, 2020 - Approved debt service in the amount of $10.3 million for solar installations at Buncombe County, AB Tech, Asheville City Schools, and Buncombe County Schools.

Pro(s):

- Demonstrates visible and measurable progress towards the 100% renewable energy goal (Resolution 18-279) by offsetting 3% of building energy use with solar generated electricity
- Supports the 80% carbon reduction goal (Resolution 11-77) by avoiding an estimated 320 metric tons of carbon annually
- The City potentially will receive over $300,000 in rebates from Duke Energy Progress (pending availability)
- The City will save approximately $30,000 in avoided electricity costs annually

Con(s):

- This project is being paid with funds from the Green Savings Account and will deplete most of the current account balance.

Fiscal Impact:

- The full budget for this project, including the contract and other associated costs, is estimated to be $956,181 and is included in the FY 2020-21 Annual Budget Ordinance in the General Capital Projects Fund. Funding for the project will come from the Green Savings Account. Renewable Energy projects identified through this process, and their savings, will be reported to the Budget Division annually.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with MB Haynes Corporation DBA Haynes Solar in the amount of $788,835, for the Aggregated Solar Projects; further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $78,884 (10%).

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Map of projects

RESOLUTION NO. 20-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MB HAYNES CORPORATION DBA HAYNES SOLAR FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ONSITE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS AT FIVE CITY FACILITIES

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, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-129, bids were solicited for the Aggregated Solar Projects**;** and

WHEREAS, the MB Haynes Corporation DBA Haynes Solar of Asheville, NC was the lowest responsible bidder for the project; and

WHEREAS, the MB Haynes Corporation DBA Haynes Solar shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment for the installation of the solar photovoltaic systems at five City of Asheville facilities, Burton Street Community Center, Linwood Crump Shiloh Community Center, Fire Station #10, Firestation #11, and Wall Street Parking Deck; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the bid is $788,835, and funding for the project is allocated within the Green Savings Account;

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 MB Haynes Corporation DBA Haynes Solar in the amount of $788,835, for the Aggregated Solar Projects; further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $78,884 (10%).

Read, approved and adopted this the 28th day of July 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

Aggregated Solar Projects
Project Map
(Blue Pins Represent City of Asheville Project Locations)

Locations include:
Burton Street Community Center
Linwood Crump Shiloh Community Center
Fire Station #10
Fire Station #11
Wall Street Parking Deck

