THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: August 25, 2020

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 help 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.
- Buncombe County advertised the RFP on May 6, 2020 and received responses on June 12, 2020.
- The County received one response from the Green Built Alliance.
- The contract will be one year with the option to amend for an additional two years (annually), pending available budget.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The Business Inclusion Manager conducted outreach through social media, 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 two years; therefore there will be continuity with the continued program management.
- In the two years the Blue Horizons Project has been implemented there has been significant increases in Duke Energy Peak Demand Response and Energy-Efficiency programs resulting in the delay of a natural gas peaker plant unit.
- In addition, 350 low-income homes have received energy efficiency upgrades which are estimated to save a combined $55,000 per year and reduce carbon emissions by more than 10,000 tons.
- Buncombe County is providing $150,000 for the implementation of the Blue Horizons Project in partnership with the City of Asheville.

Con(s):

- None identified

Fiscal Impact:

- The contract will total $100,000 from the FY21 Office of Sustainability budget. Funding is already budgeted and available.

Suggested Motion:

- 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

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

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; and

WHEREAS, the Green Built Alliance has been managing and implementing the Blue Horizons Project for the past two years and therefore, there will be continuity with the continued program management;

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 25th day of August 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney