THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Subject: Western North Carolina Nature Center City Wide Facilities Solutions Contract

Staff Resource(s): Chris Corl, Director of Community Regional Entertainment Facilities

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a general services contract with City Wide Facilities Solutions for cleaning services at the Western North Carolina Nature Center with total contract amount not to exceed $142,500 over the five year term

Background:

- With over 192,000 guests annually, the Nature Center is a popular destination for locals as well as visitors from throughout the Southeastern US.
- The facility features over 42 acres of exhibits, including several restroom facilities, offices and indoor public spaces.
- The Center recently added a new “Gateway to the Southern Appalachians" exhibit area with new butterfly gardens, a new 10,000 sq ft event courtyard space and a new 800 sq ft gift shop.
- In order to keep the facilities clean and safe, the Center utilizes a contracted custodial service five days per week to clean restrooms, visitor spaces and offices as well as remove trash and recycling from receptacles throughout the grounds.
- The service contract allows the City Maintenance and Exhibits team to focus on repair of current amenities as well as aid in the construction of new experiences for our many audiences.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Staff performed outreach to minority and women owned businesses, through solicitation processes using the State’s interactive Purchasing System.
- Eight companies participated in site visits to review the project.
- Eight companies formally submitted a Request for Proposal for the project with City Wide Facilities Solutions being the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of $28,500 per year.
    i. City Wide Facilities Solutions, Spartanburg, SC, $28,500
    ii. Asset Commercial Services, Asheville, NC, $31,140
    iii. Esther & Mays Group, LLC, Charlotte, NC, $48,300.00
    iv. Gracious Cleaning Company, LLC, Gastonia, NC., $129,600
    v. Hadasah, LLC, Cherryville, NC, $84,480
    vi. Harper Cleaning Group, Swannanoa, NC, $62,400
    vii. Raynetta And Company Enterprise, LLC, Asheville, NC, $76,381.20
    viii. SYMPL, LLC, Charlotte, NC, $56,000

Council Goal(s):

- A well planned and livable community
- Thriving local economy
- Fiscally resilient city

Committee(s):

- NA

Pro(s):

- A custodial contract ensures that the WNC Nature Center’s facilities are kept in sanitary conditions for our guests.
- By utilizing an outside company for custodial duties, the Center maintenance team is freed up to focus on upgrades and repairs throughout the Center - making it as safe and as aesthetically pleasing as possible.

Con(s):

- none

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for Year 1 of this contract is available in the Nature Center's operating budget. Funding for future years will be included in subsequent years operating budgets.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion authorizing the City Manager to enter into a general services contract with City Wide Facilities Solutions for cleaning services at the Western North Carolina Nature Center with total contract amount not to exceed $142,500 over the five year term.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 26-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CITY WIDE FACILITIES SOLUTIONS FOR THE CLEANING OF PUBLIC AREAS OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA NATURE CENTER

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 the City of Asheville Contracting Policy , bids were solicited for the cleaning of public areas at the Western North Carolina Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, City Wide Facilities Solutions of Spartanburg, SC was the lowest responsible bidder for the project, with a bid of $28,500/year for a five (5) year contract term; and

WHEREAS, City Wide Facilities Solutions shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment as noted in the plans and specifications for the cleaning of public areas at the Western North Carolina Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the bid is $142,500, and funding for the project is allocated within the project budget;

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

The contract with City Wide Facilities Solutions in an amount not to exceed $142,500 over the 5 year contract term for the cleaning of public areas at the Western North Carolina Nature Center is hereby approved and the City Manager is authorized to execute any documents necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Read, approved and adopted this the 24th day of February, 2026.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney