

Staff Report Review Cover Sheet

Project: Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council Implementation and Management Contract

Date Submitted:

Council Date: 7/23/2024

Director

Bridget Herring

Date Reviewed/Approved: 07/03/2024

Budget

Tony McDowell TM 7.3.24

Date Reviewed/Approved:

Legal (Contract Pre-Review Done (YES OR NO))

Jannice Ashley

Date Reviewed/Approved: 7/11/24

City Clerk

Maggie Burleson

Date Reviewed/Approved/Revisions Requested:

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: July 23, 2024

Subject: Blue Horizons Project Implementation Contract

Staff Resource(s): Bridget Herring, Sustainability Director
Kiera Bulan, Sustainability Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the contract with the Green Built Alliance to continue and expand implementation and management of 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 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 for the next three years, depending on availability of funding. Green Built Alliance was selected to manage the Blue Horizons Project.
- After the third year of the three-year period an updated [interlocal agreement](#) was signed in February 2023 and an RFP was reissued for this work in May 2023. Two contracts resulted from this RFP, the contract with Green Built Alliance requesting amendment in this council resolution, and a contract with Bright Spaces, LLC. Both contracts continue to support Blue Horizons Project program implementation and goals.
- The Blue Horizons Project will continue to engage our community to provide cost effective services, programs and products they value through investment in clean renewable ways to power Buncombe County and the City of Asheville to support the community-wide renewable energy goal and climate emergency resolution.
- The fiscal year 2024 Green Built Alliance contract was executed in the amount of \$56,500, below the council threshold, and therefore did not require Council action.
- As the deliverables for fiscal year 2024 have been completed this resolution is requested to amend the current contract to extend it for an additional two years, add funds, and adjust the scope of work based on analysis of effectiveness and agreed upon program deliverables to support this ongoing work.
- This contract will support residents in installing energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems in their homes to reduce energy use, reduce cost of living and increase indoor air quality particularly for our low-to-moderate-income residents.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

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 six years therefore there will be continuity with the continued program management.
- Buncombe County is providing matching funds for the implementation of the Blue Horizons Project in partnership with the City of Asheville.
- Funds allocated in this contract will complement and leverage additional resources both from a fiscal year 2025 Bright Spaces contract and through the organization's leverage of outside resources.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- The contract total will not exceed \$127,000 over two years which includes \$69,800 from the FY25 Sustainability Department budget. Funding is already budgeted and available.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with the Green Built Alliance to extend the contract for an additional two years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$227,000 in order to continue and expand implementation and management of the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 24-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH GREEN BUILT ALLIANCE TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE 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; and

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, Green Built Alliance was selected through an RFP process and contracts were executed annually through 2023; and

WHEREAS, after the third year of the three-year period an updated interlocal agreement was signed in February 2023 and an RFP was reissued to continue this work in May 2023; and

WHEREAS the City and County received two responses to the second RFP and contracted with Green Built Alliance in fiscal year 2024 to implement the Blue Horizons Project at a level below council approval threshold; and

WHEREAS the City is currently seeking to amend this contract to extend it for an additional two years and add funds to continue this work;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an amendment to the contract with the Green Built Alliance to extend the contract for an additional two years for an annual contract amount to be determined based on scope of work and total contract amount over the three year period not to exceed \$227,000 in order to continue to implement and manage the Blue Horizons Project and Blue Horizons Project Community Council.

Read, approved and adopted this the 23th day of July, 2024.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney