



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3421, **Agenda Item #:** 67.

11/12/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the contract with Matthew Kwatinetz dba QBL Partners LLC, to provide consulting services for expediting the implementation of the Austin Economic Development Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$460,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$659,420.

Lead Department

Economic Development Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$460,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Economic Development Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund.

Prior Council Action:

Resolution No. 20141211-122 - directed the City Manager to deliver a feasibility study and timeline for creating an economic development corporation or similar entity to manage economic development projects;

Resolution No. 20170216-040 - directed the City Manager to propose an economic development corporation or similar entity to support the development of affordable housing, redevelopment, revitalization and other projects;

Resolution No. 20180215-082 - directed the City Manager to propose steps for collaborating with and supporting Austin Cultural Trust to create spaces to support artists and arts organizations, preserve historic and iconic cultural buildings and spaces for creative and cultural uses and function in a way that provides for cultural assets to exist in all parts of the City;

Resolution No. 20190808-072 - directed the City Manager to initiate the necessary processes to authorize the creation of an economic development entity, identify potential funding sources, solicit stakeholder feedback and, if necessary, contract with subject matter experts to develop an implementation plan;

November 14, 2019 - Council approved Item 98, which authorized the QBL Contract;

Resolution No. 20201001-055 - Council approved the legal documents needed for the creation of the Austin Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) and simultaneously approved staff's recommendations to appoint the first six places as an interim board, as well as the priority projects and budget associated with such project development.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The Economic Development Department (EDD) staff initially entered a contract for \$199,420 with consultant, Matt Kwatinetz of QBL Partners, to develop and present recommendations for creation of a holistic economic development entity for discussion during the Council Work Session on August 25, 2020. As outlined in the staff memo provided with the report to Mayor and Council on July 31, 2020, the approach to “deliver a feasibility study” and “bring forward...specific proposals” related to the creation of a holistic entity was ultimately informed through several scopes of work resulting from Council feedback and action. Through Resolution No. 20201001-055, Council approved the legal documents needed for the creation of the (AEDC) and simultaneously approved staff’s recommendations to appoint the first six places as an interim board.

The key objective for the AEDC board and staff over the next 90 days is to on-board professional services for administrative, governance, and project development. To assist with outlining and executing tasks associated with this development, as recommended by Council Members from the dais, QBL and staff have structured a one-year, \$460,000 contract to expedite the formation and activity of the AEDC. With the assistance of this consultant and other sub-contracted consultants identified in the attached scope will provide professional services at a cost which was included in the initial budget for AEDC presented to Mayor and Council during the August 25, 2020 Council Work Session. Sub-consultants supporting the immediate on-boarding and facilitation of projects such as the Cultural Trust and South Central Waterfront will be hired by QBL and the cost for their services is included in the contract for an amount not to exceed \$460,000.

This contract comes to Council for requested approval at the recommendation of EDD staff, and will be reviewed by the AEDC Board in the future, as will future expenditures that will be paid by the City on behalf of AEDC until funding is moved through a budget amendment.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.