



**Agenda Item:** Contract

**Title:** Consideration of a contract between the City of Laramie, Wyoming and Creative Energies for the installation of solar arrays at the Laramie Community Recreation and Ice and Event Centers.

**Recommended Council MOTION:**

I move that City Council approve the contract between the City of Laramie, Wyoming and Creative Energies for the installation of solar arrays at the Laramie Community Recreation and Ice and Event Centers in an amount not to exceed \$155,131.00 and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign.

**Administrative or Policy Goal:**

This project supports Annual Goal B, Environmental Stewardship, Milestone #3 “Continue Renewable Energy Installations and/or Efficiencies at City Facilities and Properties” as detailed in Resolution 2020-08, and Resolution 2020-14 “establishing the intent of the Governing Body to immediately reduce carbon emissions from municipal government facilities and pursue a net zero, carbon neutral future for the City of Laramie, WY.”

**Background:**

Rocky Mountain Power provides grants to non-residential users in its service area to support the construction of renewable projects. This year, Rocky Mountain Power has allocated \$340,000 in funds for Wyoming. Funds will be awarded on a rolling basis throughout the year until the allocation is exhausted.

Earlier this year, Mark Hazelett (Engineering) & Mary Grace Bedwell (CMO Intern) worked together to analyze the possibility of installing solar panels on municipal facilities. Their analysis included a review of utility bills, the development of a rating matrix that accounted for the benefits of carbon neutrality, cost savings and public impact. Through this evaluation process and scoring matrix, they identified the Recreation Center, Ice & Events Center, Landfill, Municipal Operations Center, and City Hall as the top five facilities for solar installation. Additionally, staff reviewed the funding guidelines and award history of the Blue Sky program and determined that a solar panel installation at the Laramie Community Recreation Center and the Ice Event Center would not only be the most impactful project to put forth for consideration, but also the most competitive project.

In March, Council passed Resolution 2020-18 authorizing the submittal of a Blue Sky application to support the acquisition and installation of solar panels to serve the Recreation and Ice and Event Centers. An application was submitted in May and selected for an award of \$120,000 in June. The award requires participation in the Blue Sky Business Partners Program. Staff is recommending participating through the purchase of 10, 200 kWh blocks at each location. The cost of this purchase is \$1.95/block and equates to an annual total of \$468 (\$234/facility). These funds are used to assist with future Blue Sky grant applications and participation is required for a minimum of 1 year.

On July 7, 2020 City Council approved the MOU and participation in the Blue Sky Business Partners Program. The City of Laramie upon notice of award and with Blue Sky approval conducted a Request for Qualifications process that was advertised in the Laramie Boomerang on June 23 and 30, 2020 and made available on the City of Laramie website. This solicitation, due July 3, 2020, garnered one proposal from Creative Energies, Lander Wyoming. Upon review of their proposal, contacting

reference and meeting with Eric Concannon, Development & Preliminary Design for Creative Energies staff chose to move forward with a consideration of award for this project.

Creative Energies proposal for the Laramie Community Recreation Center and Ice & Event Center include 78 ground mounted Q-Cells and all items necessary to complete the installation. Creative Energies, one of the regions leaders in Blue Sky projects is committed to ensuring all requirements of the MOU with Blue Sky are met. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Creative Energies.

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

N/A

**Budget/Fiscal Information:**

**Revenue**

Source	Amount	Type
Fees/Charges for Service		
Grants for Projects	\$120,000.00	Blue Sky Award
Loans on Project		
Other	\$35,131.00	Specific Purpose Tax Funds
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,131.00</b>	

**Expense**

Proposed Project Cost.

Project Budget	Amount	Funds
Project Cost	\$155,131.00	Total of Attachments D & E
Loans on Project		
Grants for Project	\$120,000.00	
Other/Outside Projects		
City's Amount	\$35,131.00	
Contingency 0%	\$0.00	
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$155,131.00</b>	

Amount spent to date (approved and adopted by Council)

Budget	Amount	Funds
Total Budget Allocation	\$140,000.00	SPTSIR Project Code
Less Amount Spent to Date	\$200.00	Legal Advertisment (Estimated)
Remainder of Budget	\$139,800.00	

Proposed Cost (Approval of this item authorizes preparation of a budget revision for the proposed amount)

Expenditures	Amount	Fund
Proposed Expenditure	\$155,131.00	
Current Budget	\$139,800.00	Naviline Project Code SPTSIR
Additional Amount Requested	\$15,531.00	Additional SPT Funds
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$155,331.00</b>	

**Responsible Staff:** Todd Feezer, Assistant City Manager, 721-5304, tfeezer@cityoflaramie.org

**Attachments:** Attachment A Blue Sky Solar.Rec.Ice RFQ Binder, Attachment B 2020 MOU Blue Sky Funding - Laramie Recreation Center.docx, Attachment C Laramie Recreation RFQ Submittal\_Creative Energies, Attachment D Laramie Recreation Center Proposal\_RFQ, Attachment E Laramie Rec Ice & Event Proposal\_RFQ

