Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title:	Resolution to Approve a Contract with Ann Arbor SPARK for Economic Development Services ($75,000.00)				
Sponsors:					
Indexes:					
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Attachments:	1. SPARK PSA 19-20.pdf				

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/17/2019	1	City Council	Approved	Pass

Resolution to Approve a Contract with Ann Arbor SPARK for Economic Development Services ($75,000.00)

Attached for your consideration is a resolution to approve a contract with Ann Arbor SPARK. SPARK will conduct economic development activities, helping the City make progress on City Council's economic health priority area.

Budget/Fiscal Impact: Funding for the contract is in the FY2020 budget for $75,000.00.

SPARK attracts new businesses, specifically technology companies. By providing continuous communications mechanisms between higher education, government, and the private and non-profit sectors, SPARK addresses the City and region's economic development needs and concerns.

Although SPARK has a regional mission, the contract specifies that services will be provided to the City, with specific deliverables. The deliverables are the attraction and retention of companies that add or maintain taxable value and add or retain jobs. Specific deliverables also include supporting the outcomes from City Council's Economic Collaborative Task Force.

Washtenaw Development Council began providing services to the City in 1982. In 2006, Washtenaw Development Council and Ann Arbor SPARK consolidated creating one unified organization. The merger of the two organizations supports the region's mission for economic growth for all communities in Washtenaw County.

Prepared by: Sara Higgins, Strategic Planning Coordinator
Approved by: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator
Whereas, The City has had a long-standing relationship with Ann Arbor SPARK and its predecessor, the Washtenaw Development Council, to provide services related to the economic development of the area

Whereas, The services of Ann Arbor SPARK focus on building our innovation-focused community through continual proactive support of entrepreneurs, regional businesses, university tech transfer office, and networking organizations;

Whereas, Ann Arbor SPARK is uniquely qualified and the best source to provide such economic development services to the City;

Whereas, The Ann Arbor SPARK complies with the requirements of the City's Non-Discrimination and Living Wage Ordinances;

Whereas, Funding for services for FY2020 are budgeted within the approved budget under the City - wide Membership account in the amount of $75,000.00; and

Whereas, Washtenaw County has developed an Act 88 Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, to improve transparency in local economies economic development grant funds awards and oversight of funding recipients;

RESOLVED, That City Council approve a one year contract in the amount of $75,000.00 with Ann Arbor SPARK for business support services for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020;

RESOLVED, That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the contract after approval as to substance by the City Administrator and approval as to form by the City Attorney;

RESOLVED, That the City Administrator be authorized to take all necessary actions to implement this resolution; and

RESOLVED, The City Administrator be directed to work with SPARK and, as appropriate, the Washtenaw County Act 88 Advisory Committee, to develop improved metrics and reporting for local economic development investments.