

TO: City Council
FROM: Austin Ramirez, Economic Development Manager
DATE: December 5, 2023
SUBJECT: Service Provider Agreement with Thurston EDC for Economic Development Services

1) Recommended Action:

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Service Provider Agreement with Thurston EDC for economic development services.

2) Background:

The City has contracted with the Thurston Economic Development Council (EDC) for economic development services for years. These services include business retention, recruitment, and marketing activities; several business support programs for entrepreneurs, new businesses, and established businesses; economic analysis and market research, and; support on redevelopment efforts within the Brewery District.

The previous two-year contract between the City and EDC expired this year and is due for renewal. In addition to the services listed above, there are several new items staff proposes for inclusion in a new agreement:

- Convening business roundtables to provide input on the upcoming Economic Development Plan update
- Convening leaders from the business and development sectors to provide input on redevelopment opportunities in the Brewery District and Capitol Boulevard Corridor
- Coordination of the Thurston Innovation Cluster Accelerator Program (ICAP), an effort to support creative/maker entrepreneurs anchored by the Tumwater Craft District, Olympia Armory, Lacey MakerSpace, and Tenino Agricultural Park (additional information on the ICAP is attached in Exhibit B)
- An annual \$5,000 investment in the Lacey MakerSpace, a valuable and regional asset for Tumwater businesses
- An Economic Impact Analysis and Report of the Tumwater Artesian Brewfest, measuring the economic benefits provided by this annual event to the city and region

On November 8, 2023, staff presented the proposed economic development services to General Government Committee (GGC). GGC expressed support for existing services and inclusion of the new services.

3) Policy Support:

Economic Development Plan Goal #2 – Retain and support existing businesses

Economic Development Plan Goal #8 – Encourage economic development that strengthens the Tumwater community

Strategic Goal and Priorities – Work with partner organizations and jurisdictions to

implement our goals to be a more inclusive community

4) Alternatives:

☐ None

5) Fiscal Notes:

The agreement for economic development services is \$25,000 per year and is included in the City's budget.

6) Attachments:

- A. Service Provider Agreement for Economic Development Services
- B. ICAP Presentation