OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: February 6, 2023

TO: Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe and City Council Members

FROM: Scott Wrighton, City Manager
Jon Kindseth, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolutions Authorizing an Agreement for Professional Services related to Solar Development with CQI Associates, LLC, and the City of Decatur

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by staff that this agreement be authorized.

BACKGROUND: In 2020 the city with help of our energy consultant CQI performed preliminary solar capabilities analysis of city owned sites throughout Decatur. Based on that solar feasibility study the city has already authorized a behind the meter solar project for the Civic Center. Over the past year we have worked on details of the Civic Center Solar Parking project with the selected solar contractor and plans are being designed. With approval of this agreement, CQI would manage this project through construction on behalf of the City over the next 12-18 months.

The library site has been put on hold due to resistance from the utility, because of the electrical feed for the library building. Ameren is opposed to any solar project in the downtown area, due to the electrical distribution loop. With approval of this agreement, CQI would help the City work with Ameren to get a similar behind the meter project for the Library facility. The proposed CQI agreement also includes updating the previous feasibility report for additional City-owned facilities, i.e., the South Water Treatment Plant and fire stations. With this work the city is seeking to find additional solar projects that can save the City expenses on utilities for years to come.

POTENTIAL OBJECTIONS: Staff is not aware of objections.

STAFF REFERENCE: Should the City Council have any questions, they may contact Jon Kindseth, who will also be at the City Council meeting.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS: This solar project will save the City and Civic Center collectively approximately $100,000 annually. We hope to find similar projects at other City facilities.