

26 decentralized, with individual City departments responsible for their own
27 solicitation, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of contractor performance,
28 leading to inconsistent application of contracting rules and procedures; and

29 **WHEREAS**, a similar approach that is both centralized and decentralized
30 exists when the City is the grantee and the grantor, leading to inconsistent
31 application of standards across multiple departments; and

32 **WHEREAS**, recommendations for improvement from the City Auditor are
33 not implemented in a timely or consistent manner by individual departments; and

34 **WHEREAS**, organizing the oversight of contract solicitation and
35 compliance under a single procurement operation while maintaining contract
36 management staff within their individual departments would increase efficiency
37 and effectiveness in contracting, safeguard City resources, ensure public trust, and
38 improve service delivery; and

39 **WHEREAS**, organizing the oversight of City grant awards, applications and
40 compliance under a single grant operation would also increase efficiency and
41 effectiveness in grant receiving and grantmaking; and

42 **WHEREAS**, Austin Financial Services and Austin Government Relations
43 are performing initial analyses and strategic planning to address the current
44 challenges in contract and grant management; and

45 **WHEREAS**, City Council supports these efforts and all improvements for
46 decision-making, efficient and effective implementation of systemwide
47 improvements, and consistent application of rules and procedures; **NOW**,
48 **THEREFORE**,

49 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

50 The City Manager is directed to perform a comprehensive review of Central
51 Procurement and grant management in his discretion to further identify
52 opportunities to improve oversight, transparency, accountability, consistency for
53 both departments and vendors, and ensure industry best practices.

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

55 The City Manager is directed to assess the following at a minimum and
56 consider other factors he deems necessary and make recommendations as part of
57 the comprehensive review:

- 58 • modernization of technology systems;
- 59 • updated rules and procedures;
- 60 • enhanced compliance and enforcement rules;
- 61 • standardized documents for all solicitations and contract types;
- 62 • centralized oversight of contract management, inclusive of the
63 following procedures and features:
 - 64 ○ contract and grant management training and certification;
 - 65 ○ the City's process as a grantee and grantor;
 - 66 ○ monitoring, billing, inspection, and enforcement;
 - 67 ○ performance evaluations and scoring;
 - 68 ○ vendor rating system;
 - 69 ○ use of third-party vendors;
 - 70 ○ enhanced reporting and transparency; and
 - 71 ○ support for small businesses, green preferences, and other
72 purchasing programs.

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

74 The City Manager is requested to consider using a standard approach to
75 structuring management consulting contracts, such as ISO 20700:2017.

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

77 The City Manager is requested to consider using a standard approach to
78 structuring all grant management – for the City as a grantor and grantee.

79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

80 The City Manager is requested to evaluate the use of cooperative purchasing
81 contracts and establish clear guidelines for their use.

82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

83 As a public accountability measure, the City Manager is requested to
84 consider implementing a procurement dashboard to track City contract
85 performance and outcomes.

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

87 The City Manager is requested to analyze the use and purpose of
88 management and advisory consultant contracts for all departments and provide the
89 analysis as well as recommendations for changes or reductions to Council as part
90 of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget process.

91 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

92 The City Manager is requested to update contracting rules and procedures to:

- 93 • Further clarify and ensure the City does not direct contractors to use
94 specific subcontractors,
- 95 • Ensure that known subcontractor information is included in the Request
96 for Council Authorization for all management consulting services, and

- Report the use of subcontractors by management consults to the City Council on a semi-annual basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

As part of the analysis of management and advisory consultant contracts, the City Manager is requested to incorporate a requirement for and verification of a needs assessment as part of the contract initiation documentation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is requested to substantially complete the comprehensive review by the end of 2027, to update the Audit and Finance Committee regularly on progress, and to provide an initial report to the full Council in the Fall of 2026.

ADOPTED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk