

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Nov 12, 2024 - Bryan City Council Second Regular Meeting
Category	6. Statutory (Automatic Approval) Agenda - This agenda consists of items previously approved by Council action such as adoption of items that are part of an approved budget or capital improvement projects, first and only readings of ordinances, interlocal agreements, or action that is required by law or delegated to the City Manager. Items may be removed from the statutory agenda for separate consideration at the request of two Councilmembers.
Subject	M. Consider approval of a Plug & Play, LLC Supplemental Funding Agreement between the City of Bryan and the Greater Brazos Partnership, Inc.
Type	Action (Statutory)
Preferred Date	Nov 12, 2024
Absolute Date	Nov 12, 2024
Fiscal Impact	Yes
Dollar Amount	350,000.00
Budgeted	No
Budget Source	General Fund
Goals	Economic Development

Summary:

The City of Bryan, in collaboration with Texas A&M University System Innovation ("TAMUSI") and the Greater Brazos Partnership ("GBP"), has identified an innovation ecosystem infrastructure gap as a critical priority to help technology start-up companies in the defense and aerospace sectors accelerate their business activities in Aggieland. As such, Plug & Play, Inc., a global leader in technology start-up business acceleration based in the Silicon Valley, was targeted as a potential partner to fill this gap. Over the course of the last several months, TAMUSI and the GBP have coordinated with Plug & Play, LLC on a plan to bring Plug & Play, LLC to Aggieland. The Supplemental Funding Agreement, as presented for City Council consideration, is a key element of that plan - an economic development partnership between TAMUSI and the community via the GBP.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Because the City of Bryan is the home TAMUS RELLIS and because of the start-up business accelerator focus of Plug & Play, LLC, staff considers this economic development partnership to be of high value. As stated above, Plug & Play, LLC is a global leader in technology start-up business acceleration. The combined annual cost of the Plug & Play Agreements with TAMUSI and GBP is \$1,500,000 annually for up to three (3) years. TAMUSI will fund \$800,000 and the GBP will fund \$700,000 annually. The City's investment in this economic development partnership with TAMUSI, under the Supplemental Funding Agreement with GBP, is \$350,000 annually. GBP will fund the remaining \$350,000. In return, GBP's agreement with Plug & Play, LLC requires Plug & Play, LLC to: locate its offices in Bryan; hire four (4) full time employees to staff those offices; and provide access to the data, assets, and other resources Plug & Play has to offer. Specifically, GBP's agreement with Plug & Play, LLC requires establishment of an Advisory Committee and utilization of Plug & Play's proprietary platform called the "Playbook". The Supplemental Funding Agreement requires that the GBP shall:

- for those positions on the Advisory Committee for the Aerospace and Defense Program, which GBP is entitled to occupy, allow Bryan to appoint two (2) of the four (4) members of the Advisory Committee for the Aerospace and Defense Program and
- through GBP's right to access pursuant to their Plug & Play Agreement, provide to Bryan access to Plug and Play's proprietary virtual platform called the "Playbook," which allows members to track engagement with startups and other information. GBP shall designate Bryan, or an employee of Bryan if an individual must be named, as one of its representatives authorized to create a profile on the platform and gain access to it.

Furthermore, the Supplemental Funding Agreement establishes the following:

- Upon failure of GBP to fulfill any of the provisions of sections 1, 2, or 3 of this Agreement or any other breach of this Agreement, GBP shall refund to Bryan the amount Bryan paid under this agreement within thirty (30) days of Bryan's demand for same.
- Bryan will reimburse GBP, within thirty (30) days of an invoice from GBP, \$350,000 to cover its share of the cost of the Plug & Play, LLC Agreement. GBP will timely tender payment to Plug & Play, LLC in accordance with the terms of its agreement. At Bryan's request, GBP shall furnish to Bryan an invoice along with documentation showing the annual payment of \$700,000 has been made.
- The term of this Agreement is from December 1, 2024, through November 30, 2025. This Agreement will automatically renew for up to two (2) additional terms, unless terminated as provided herein. Either party may elect to terminate by sending the other party notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the end of the then current term. Renewal is subject to annual appropriation by the Bryan City Council.

Staff recommends approval of the Supplemental Funding Agreement.

Options:

1. Approve the Supplemental Funding Agreement
2. Do not approve the Supplemental Funding Agreement

Attachments:

1. GBP Plug & Play COB 2024 Funding Agreement - available at the City Secretary's Office