

ITEM # 13
DATE: 10-23-18

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FLOOD MITIGATION – RIVER FLOODING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

BACKGROUND:

Following the floods of 2010, the City Council established a goal of mitigating the impact of future flooding in Ames. A comprehensive Flood Mitigation Study was completed in 2013 that considered many possible mitigation alternatives across a wide range of factors, including: degree of reduction of flood water elevation, estimated annual damage reduction, construction costs, ongoing operations and maintenance costs, environmental impacts, and likelihood of obtaining federal grant funding.

On December 10, 2013, the City Council approved a series of flood mitigation measures. These included discrete elements targeted at: A.) Undertaking a ‘stream restoration’ of Squaw Creek; B.) Working with IDOT to improve the conveyance capacity of the US Highway 30 bridge; C.) Working through the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority to pursue flood mitigation alternatives in the upper reaches of the watershed; and D.) Conducting a workshop to review and discuss the range of possible floodplain regulatory approaches.

This stream restoration project involves flood mitigation in the Squaw Creek channel. A central component includes conveyance improvements within the channel approximately 2,000 feet either side of the South Duff Avenue bridge. According to the flood mitigation study, this is anticipated to reduce the water surface elevation of a 1% annual chance flood (i.e. – a “100-year” flood) by approximately 2 feet on South Duff Avenue, a major damage center. Outside grant funding through FEMA was unsuccessfully pursued in a nationally-competitive application submitted in 2017. Starting October 1, 2018, FEMA grant funding is open for application for the types of projects such as the Ames Flood Mitigation – River Flooding project. This is a nationally competitive grant.

On October 27, 2015, City Council approved a professional services contract with WHKS & Co. of Ames, Iowa to design the flood mitigation project and to aid in the FEMA grant application process in an amount not to exceed \$138,000. This initial FEMA grant application submitted was not approved for funding. City Council directed that design work on the project was to continue and staff was to apply for the next FEMA grant opportunity. Additional outreach/property owner input and design clarity have also been gained, including the need for significant structural retaining walls along Squaw Creek in order to keep two adjoining properties/developments viable (Red Lobster and Carney property). **This professional services agreement amendment includes design of these structural retaining walls, respective geotechnical**

engineering services, additional project administrative time, and additional assistance in preparing to submit a grant application under the current round of FEMA funding. The approved CIP budget has included \$1,144,000 in G.O. Bonds for engineering services, construction, and inspection of this project; \$650,000 has been identified for engineering. This brings the total WHKS contract to \$214,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the engineering services agreement amendment for the Flood Mitigation – River Flooding with WHKS & Co. of Ames, Iowa, for an additional amount not to exceed \$76,000 (total contract not to exceed \$214,000).
2. Direct staff to re-negotiate engineering services contract amendment.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approving this amendment will allow staff and the consultant to move ahead with City Council's direction to submit a grant application for a second time to FEMA for nationwide consideration. This also will provide for the design of retaining walls that maintain maximum usable space on adjacent, affected lots.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.