

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: FLOOD MITIGATION – RIVER FLOODING
(CHANNEL SHAPING ON SQUAW CREEK AT SOUTH DUFF BRIDGE)**

BACKGROUND:

To provide flood mitigation in the South Duff area along Squaw Creek, the City Council directed staff to work toward “full build” channel shaping (Hydraulic Alternative No. 6 - 2010 Event). This would mean channel shaping with a reconnection to the floodplain. There would be major impacts to adjacent properties and represents the maximum flood level reduction that can be achieved with channel improvements.

An application for FEMA grant funding was made in 2017, however it was not selected for award. Staff worked with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD) and FEMA to find way in which the grant application could be enhanced. **A new funding application has now been prepared for consideration under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Flood Mitigation – River Flooding project (Squaw Creek Channel Improvements at South Duff Avenue).** The grant application is submitted through IHSEMD to FEMA. This is a very competitive grant that is awarded on a National level. If funding for the grant program moves forward, money will be released for use approximately January 2020 (which would mean a 2020/21 construction at the earliest).

The estimated construction cost for this project is \$5,040,000, including construction, engineering, and land acquisition. If approved for funding, the cost share basis for this project would be in amounts not to exceed 75 percent (\$3,780,000) from federal funds and the remaining 25 percent (\$1,260,000) from local funds. Local match funding in the amount of \$1,144,000 was included in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 Capital Improvements Plans Flood Mitigation – River Flooding program. This funding has continued to be carried forward with budget amendments.

Due to the increased estimated cost of the project and a portion of the previously budgeted local funding being used to pay for engineering and land acquisition services, additional local funding will be requested as part of the draft 2019-2024 Capital Improvements Plan to be considered by City Council in January/February 2019; that amount is still being determined. The work items listed above (engineering and land acquisition services) are not included as part of the \$1,260,000 designated as minimum local match since they are not FEMA reimbursement eligible because this work needed to take place ahead of making application for the grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1a. Approve a resolution as part of the grant application through Iowa HSEMD to FEMA for local match funding up to \$1,260,000 (a minimum of 25 percent) for the Flood Mitigation-River Flooding project with a total project estimated cost of \$5,040,000; and
 - b. Designate Tracy Warner, Municipal Engineer, as the applicant's Authorized Representative for the Flood Mitigation-River Flooding project.
2. Reject the FEMA application and direct staff on how to further mitigate flooding of the S. Duff Avenue area.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving the resolution for this project, FEMA funding can be applied for as part of mitigating further public infrastructure damage in this area of town.

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