



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
June Brooks, Planning Director

DATE: July 30, 2016

REF: **Consideration** - Call for a Public Hearing to obtain citizen comment regarding an application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program for the Herrington Road sewer infrastructure project

BACKGROUND:

This request is for the Finance Committee to recommend that the City Council call for a Public Hearing to be held on August 22, 2016, to obtain public comment on a site specific proposal to apply for CDBG funding to replace the Herrington Road Sewer Main.

ANALYSIS:

The CDBG Infrastructure Program, administered by the Department of Commerce, offers funding assistance to non-entitlement communities for infrastructure upgrades. Thirty-three million dollars is available in a competitive grant process for infrastructure needs. The general public hearing to gain citizen comment is being held during the Council meeting of August 8, 2016. A project specific public hearing must be held in order to apply for the grant funding.

This is one of two hearings being requested in order for staff to make application for this round of grant funding. A description of the Herrington Road Sewer Infrastructure Project is as follows:

Herrington Road Sewer Project

The City of Elizabeth Herrington Road Sewer Project consists of replacing a non-functioning section of gravity sewer in the vicinity of the Herrington Road Bridge over Charles Creek. The replacement sewer will be relocated to take a more direct route to the Dawson Street Sewer Pump Station thru the B Street, Goodwin Street and A Street neighborhood replacing old problematic sewer line serving a neighborhood with a 90% low-moderate income population. The redirected sewer line will also relieve environmental issues and very probable sewer infiltration issues that impact the Herrington Road neighborhood directly. Finally, the redirected sewer line will provide an opportunity for the City to reconstruct sewer lines in the neighborhoods south of Charles Creek and west of Southern Avenue, an area with an 85% low-moderate income population. Currently those sewer lines are very flat and in some cases have a negative slope, which creates a high recurrence of sewer backups. Previously, properties have experienced sewer backups that have come into the house leaving property damage and/or an unpleasant clean up task.

The anticipated cost of the Herrington Road Sewer Project is \$916,000.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION – In addition to the concerns about the integrity of the section of gravity sewer on Herrington Road that flows through Charles Creek, the City is also concerned about the construction of old sewer line that was constructed on an almost flat grade in the surrounding neighborhoods. This project will not only address the environmental concerns about the existing sewer, but open the opportunity for the City to systematically repair and replace upstream problems with the sanitary sewer system. To be able to fund the Herrington Road Sewer Project at this time will also leverage the almost \$2,000,000 in improvements to this neighborhood.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council call for a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows) in Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue to gather citizen input regarding Small Cities CDBG Infrastructure Grant funding for the replacement of the Herrington Road sewer main.

RCO/vdw