To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Rich Olson, City Manager  
Amanda C. Boone, Public Utilities Director

Date: March 20, 2019

Subj: Consideration – Engineering Services for Design of Providence Road Bridge

BACKGROUND:

The Providence Road Bridge (Oxford Heights) was originally built in 1957; it is a standard slab on grade design. Every two years, the City is required to have the bridge inspected by an NCDOT approved agency. Over the last 15 years, due to the overall condition of the bridge, staff has been required to place load limit requirements on the bridge. On March 14, 2018, an inspection of the bridge showed continued deterioration, which can be attributed to Hurricane Matthew.

In a memorandum dated January 11, 2019, the City Council was advised of the discussions with the Railroad to reduce the cost of the bridge replacement by creating a new entrance into the Oxford Heights subdivision. Since that memorandum, City staff has been notified by the Railroad an alternative entrance crossing the railroad tracks will not be permitted. As this was the only alternative to replacing the existing bridge, the City is now forced to pursue bridge replacement in the current location.

ANALYSIS:

To move forward with design, permitting, and construction documentation, the City needs to retain engineering services for the bridge replacement. Wetherill Engineering has been selected based on their previous experience with bridge replacement projects involving FEMA regulated floodplains. City staff will continue to work with the design engineer to minimize costs, reduce construction time, and seek options for eliminating or minimizing flooding of the roadway approach sections.

The Scope of Services from Wetherill Engineering includes surveying; property research; utility location, relocation and coordination; roadway design; hydraulic design; and contract documentation.
In order to deliver the proposed scope of services, the fee for Wetherill Engineering will be $236,392. Staff proposes to pay for these engineering services out of the FY 2018-2019 budget using funds dedicated for the Providence Road Bridge in the Powell Bill fund.

**FINANCIAL:**

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during its March 21, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Young, seconded by Councilwoman Hummer, the Committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

By motion, authorize staff to execute an agreement with Wetherill Engineering to provide professional services required to produce plans and contract documents for the proposed Providence Road bridge replacement.