



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date July 13, 2009

Agenda Item No. 72
Roll Call No. 09-
Communication No. 09-488
Submitted by: John TeKippe, Fire Department
Chief

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and adopting the Polk County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and adoption of the Polk County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, as required by the FEMA HMGP. This action is required in order to remain eligible for reimbursement of grant funds not yet expended under the FEMA HMGP project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,082,605 estimated for acquisition, closing costs, relocation and demolition related to this FEMA HMGP grant, plus any future FEMA grants and disaster assistance.

Funding Source: 75% by FEMA, 10% by State of Iowa, 15% by State CDBG funds.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Last year, City staff completed assessments of structures in the Four Mile Creek area that were impacted by the floods of 2008. Staff contacted property owners to determine their willingness to participate in a buy-out program. As a result, twelve properties have been identified that are eligible to participate in a voluntary buy-out program. These properties are zoned "U-1" Floodplain District or "FW" Floodway District. These zoning districts were developed to protect the health and welfare of the public from the impacts of frequent flooding. Development in these districts is severely limited as a result of this mission. The reconstruction of these seven properties would be restricted and possibly prohibited by the City's Zoning Ordinance. Staff believes a buy-out program would prevent future losses, due to frequent flooding in the area. Acquired properties would be cleared of all structures and include a deed restriction limiting their use to green space only. This will allow the land to return to its natural state and restore its floodplain functions.

The HMGP provides grants to State and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures, following a Presidential disaster declaration. This allows measures to be implemented during recovery that will limit damages in the future.

On September 19, 2008, the City of Des Moines submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) to the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD), in order to be eligible for consideration to apply for HMGP funds.

On September 29, 2008, the City of Des Moines received a formal invitation to complete and submit an HMGP application. The applications were submitted January 29, 2009.

On April 30, 2009, the City of Des Moines received notice that both grant applications had been approved by FEMA. On May 18, 2009, the City of Des Moines approved and authorized execution of the grants, approved and authorized the HMGP Administrative Plan and authorized voluntary acquisition.

The local planning requirement of the grant agreement requires the City of Des Moines to adopt a local hazard mitigation plan, which must also be approved by FEMA. The City of Des Moines is a participating community in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan written by Polk County. Polk County submitted the plan to the IHSEMD and FEMA for review on June 4, 2009.

The local mitigation plan must be adopted in order for the City of Des Moines to remain eligible for costs not yet incurred in the FEMA HMGP voluntary acquisition program, which is currently in progress. To date, less than \$50,000 of the \$1,082,605 has been spent.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 18, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-842

Action: Approving and authorizing execution of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Agreements and HMGP Administrative Plan and authorizing voluntary property acquisition. (Council Communication No. 09-345) Moved by Kiernan to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

Date: November 10, 2008

Roll Call Number: 08-2009

Action: Authorization to submit a Hazard Mitigation Grant Project Application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in order to fund a Voluntary Acquisition Program for eligible flood damaged properties in the Four Mile Area. (Council Communication No. 08-676) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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