THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: Aug 25, 2026

Subject: Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Staff Resource(s): Assistant Chief Jeremy Knighton(AFD), Nancy Watford, Stormwater Plan Review Supervisor (Public Works), Bridget Herring, Director (Recovery and Resilience)

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution adopting the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Background:

- Local governments are vulnerable to an array of hazards that can cause loss of life and damage to public and private property, and seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances.
- Developing and implementing a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards. It allows local governments to protect their community and property from the effects of natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan.
- Hazard mitigation techniques include both structural measures (strengthening or protecting buildings and infrastructure) and non-structural measures (adopting sound land-use policies and creating public awareness programs).
- Under North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 166A: North Carolina Emergency Management Act and Section 322: Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting the organization.
- In coordination with Buncombe and Madison Counties and the participating municipalities within those Counties (including the City of Asheville), a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan has been developed with input from the appropriate local and state officials.
- The focus of the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is hazards considered to be high or moderate risks (determined from a detailed hazard risk assessment) that enable us to prioritize mitigation action.
- The City of Asheville has adopted a county-wide all-hazards mitigation plan since 2011 and the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan since 2016..
- North Carolina Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and have approved the plan, pending completion of local adoption procedures.

Council Goal(s):

- A well-planned and livable community
- A clean, safe, and healthy environment
- Connected and engaged community

Committee(s):

- Public Safety Committee

Pro(s):

- Hazard mitigation planning saves lives, property, and money; speeds recovery following disasters; reduces future vulnerability through wise development and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction; expedites the receipt of pre-disaster grant funding; and demonstrates a firm commitment to improving community health and safety.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- None at this time

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a resolution adopting the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Attachment(s)
- Resolution
- Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUNCOMBE MADISON REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.15(f)(2) to direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with policies and standards set by the The Division of Emergency Management, consistent with federal and State laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City is vulnerable to an array of hazards that can cause loss of life and damages to public and private property; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the development and implementation of a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City of Asheville to protect its citizens and property from the effects of natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, it is also the intent of the City to fulfill its obligation under North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 166A: North Carolina Emergency Management Act and Section 322: Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville, in coordination with Buncombe and Madison Counties and the participating municipalities within those Counties has prepared a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and has approved the plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The Asheville City Council hereby adopts the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan dated April, 2021 as a replacement for the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2016.

Read, approved and adopted this the 8th day of June, 2021.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney