City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** October 23, 2025

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Bridget Herring/Jaime Matthews - Recovery

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** November 18, 2025

4. **Subject:** Submission of Tropical Storm Helene Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Subapplications and Encumber Funds

5. **Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for grants in the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and authorizing the City Manager to accept funds if granted, and to execute all documents related to implementation and management of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** The subapplication must be submitted to the state by December 15, 2025.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** No action at this time. A budget amendment will be presented to the City Council for each individual project grant award. All projects will be reimbursement-based. FEMA requires a 25% match for HMGP community infrastructure mitigation projects. The City expects that matching funds are to be paid by the state of North Carolina.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).** Funding for these FEMA grants requires compliance with federal requirements. City staff will comply with federal outreach requirements when the related projects and contracts are solicited.

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board If these grants are approved.**
If these grants are awarded, Council will approve all applicable procurements. Additionally, Council will be kept informed through the Policy, Finance and Infrastructure Committee for infrastructure projects and Planning, Economic Development & Environment Committee for the Open Space Planning. Recovery Boards may be engaged should a community engagement and/or policy recommendation arise from either of these projects. Approval of these grants may take up to two years.

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - The Tropical Storm Helene Hazard Mitigation Program (HMGP) is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
    - The program uses a state-centric model. Program priorities are managed at the state level, and funds are distributed to the state as the primary applicant. Subapplicants (local governments, state agencies, etc.) apply to the state for project approval, and grant reimbursement.
    - On July 29, 2025 City Council authorized nine infrastructure project applications based on the letter of interest (LOI) submitted to the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM).
    - This resolution would authorize the submission of one new application and one amended application as follows:
        i. The City of Asheville is requesting $702,450.00 in funding to develop a strategic framework for the long-term stewardship of properties acquired by the City of Asheville as through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to reduce future risk from natural hazard to flooding, stormwater impacts, slope instability, and other natural hazards.

ii. Amend the North Fork Alternate Route Utility Protection application to include pretreatment to increase the city's capacity to handle storm-induced sediment and turbidity. The total funding request for this application is amended from $10,000,000 to $233,830,105.00.

- City staff will submit all grant subapplications for projects based on the readiness of each submittal.
- Projects funded by this program are required to meet strict eligibility criteria, and most of the projects must demonstrate cost effectiveness as measured by the FEMA benefit cost analysis.
- The period to complete the project is 48 months, starting at the receipt of a letter of award.
- Future formal action for City Council, related to awarded projects, will come in the form of a Budget Amendment to receive the funding, and adjust the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).