City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- September 8, 2026

Subject

- Budget Amendment for Helene Disaster Recovery and Response Expenses

Staff Resource(s)

- Becki Ogles, Assistant Finance Director

Action Requested

- Adoption of a budget amendment in the amount of $4.2M for additional Tropical Storm (TS) Helene Disaster Recovery and Response Expenses, funded with Federal and State Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements and transfer $105,000 in donations from the Special Revenue Fund to the General Capital Projects Fund to support the temporary skating rink project.

Background

- The City has and will continue to incur expenses related to TS Helene Disaster Recovery and Response.
- To date City Council has approved Helene-related budgets totaling $219.5M.
- This budget has been utilized to fund expenses related to Helene that include costs from the initial response, ongoing staff expenses, permanent work projects and the contract with Hagerty Consulting.
- Spending authority from these prior Helene-related budget amendments is nearing full utilization, so additional budget is needed in order to meet State Statute requirements related to pre-audits and budget authorizations
- Staff is recommending that Council amend the Helene budget by $4.2M to fund upcoming expenses such as a temporary bridge for Gashes Greek and a recent obligation for Parks content replacements and grants management costs.
- In addition, the City received a donation of $105,000 to support temporary recreational facilities after TS Helene. The donation was originally budgeted in the Special Revenue Fund. This action will move funds into the General Capital Projects Fund to provide materials for the temporary skating rink project.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- No competitive bid process was conducted this year

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Financially Resilient City

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment

Committee(s):

- No prior Committee approval

Fiscal Impact

- Staff anticipates that this $4.2M budget authorization will be fully reimbursed through federal and state disaster recovery reimbursements
- $105,000 in donations is available in the Special Revenue Fund.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a budget amendment in the amount of $4.2 for additional Helene Disaster Recovery and Response Expenses, funded with Federal and State Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements and transfer $105,000 in donations from the Special Revenue Fund to the General Capital Projects Fund to support the temporary skating rink project.

Attachment(s)

- Budget Amendment

City of Asheville Budget Amendment Ordinance Number ____

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Asheville.

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $3,105,000 for the City's General Capital Projects Fund and $1,200,000 in the City's Special Revenue Fund, funds will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and donations as follows:

Capital Projects Fund

Revenues:

Item	Amount
FEMA Reimbursements - Federal	$2,700,000
FEMA Reimbursements - State	$300,000
Transfer from the Special Revenue Fund	$105,000

Expenditures:

Item	Amount
Tropical Storm Helene	$3,000,000
Skate Rink Materials	$105,000

Special Revenue Fund

Revenues:

Item	Amount
FEMA Reimbursements - Federal	$1,155,000
FEMA Reimbursements - State	$45,000

Expenditures:

Item	Amount
Tropical Storm Helene	$1,200,000

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 8th day of September, 2026

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk