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:** 12.16.2025

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Jes Foster, Public Works Sanitation

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** 1.13.2026

4. **Subject:** Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant

5. **Action Requested:** Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for a Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure grant, and if awarded funding, enter into a contract with the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) to accept funding as a subrecipient of the federal EPA grant; and to further authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary documents to this effect.

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** Grant applications are due January 20, 2026

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** Grants are available for up to $5,000,000. No City-funding match is required.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).** N/A

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** The City grant committee has reviewed the grant application materials and provided approval to apply.

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - NC DEQ has received grant funding from the EPA to provide grants to local governments in Western North Carolina to improve recycling and waste reduction infrastructure.
    - North Carolina local governments can apply for EPA funding through NC DEQ for the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant for up to $5,000,000 with a project life of up to 3 years.
    - NCDEQ is currently accepting viable, well-planned proposals for projects that will expand, rebuild, or improve waste reduction, composting, and recycling programs to improve the resiliency of the region's waste reduction infrastructure.
    - Hurricane Helene has resulted in an excess of vegetative and organic waste materials in Western North Carolina, overloading our local yard waste processing facilities.
    - This excess of vegetative waste has resulted in significant price increases for residential yard waste disposal, as well as an inability of local yard waste facilities to accept residential leaves.
    - The City's disposal site for concrete waste is approaching capacity and a long-term solution for this waste is needed.
    - The City intends to apply for a grant to build our capacity to internally process wastes; to evaluate and provide recommendations for operational changes and infrastructure to process larger volumes of organic and concrete waste; and to fund implementation of feasible recommendations.