THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Subject: Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Staff Resource(s): Chief Scott Burnette, Asheville Fire Department and Abigail Riley, Financial Business Manager

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 damages to public and private property and seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances.
- 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.
- It allows local governments to protect its citizens 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 building and infrastructure) and non-structural measures (adoption of sound land-use policies and creation of 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 enables us to prioritize mitigation action.
- The purpose of the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to:
    - Completely update the existing Plan to demonstrate progress and reflect current conditions
    - Update the plan in accordance with Community Rating System (CRS) requirements
    - Increase public awareness and education
    - Maintain grant eligibility
    - Maintain compliance with state and federal legislative requirements for local hazard mitigation plans
- The plan outlines the following functions:
    - *Planning Process:* The process used to prepare the plan including identification of participants, public input, stakeholder input, and the outcomes of the meetings and discussions
    - *Community Profile:* A general overview of the region that includes geographic, demographic, and economic characteristics
    - *Risk Assessment:* A compilation of hazard identification, hazard profiles, and a vulnerability assessment to identify, analyze, and assess the threat to the Buncombe Madison region
    - *Capability Assessment:* A comprehensive examination of the Buncombe Madison Region's capacity to implement meaningful mitigation strategies and identify opportunities to increase and enhance that capacity
    - *Mitigation Strategy:* Broad goal statements and analysis of hazard mitigation techniques for jurisdictions to consider in reducing hazard vulnerabilities; identification and prioritization of possible mitigation projects; emphasis on program and policy alternatives

to make the Buncombe Madison Region less vulnerable to damaging forces of hazards while improve the economic, social, and environmental health of the community
    - *Mitigation Action Plans*: Functional plans for each of the jurisdictions in the Buncombe Madison Region; designed to achieve the mitigation goals established by the mitigation strategy
        - There are 11 mitigation actions outlined for the City of Asheville
        - The City of Asheville's Hazard Mitigation Plan (pages 9:14 - 9:18 in the overall plan) outlines the hazards addressed, priority, funding sources, responsible parties, target completion dates, 2015 action implementation statuses, and 2021 action implementation statuses
    - *Plan Maintenance:* The measures jurisdictions will take to ensure implementation
- The plan remains a living document, with implementation and evaluation procedures established to help achieve meaningful objectives and successful outcomes over time.
- The City of Asheville has adopted a county-wide all hazards mitigation plan since 2011 and the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation since 2016.
- The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management regionalized hazard mitigation plans and established our region as Buncombe Madison.
- Before the regions for hazard mitigation were established, each county in North Carolina submitted their own plan and municipalities could be a part of their County's plan or submit their own hazard mitigation plan independently. This method was too laborious and time-consuming for FEMA and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. Thus, the new system of regional planning was developed and implemented.
- The current plan expires on July 6, 2021.
- The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management is required to review hazard mitigation plans prior to submission to FEMA for final approval.
- The North Carolina Emergency Management Division and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed the Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and have approved the plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures.
- There are no substantive changes to the plan.

Council Goal(s):
- A well-planned and livable community
- A clean and healthy environment

Committee(s):
- N/A

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