City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- April 28, 2026

Subject

- Helene Recovery: Stormwater Repairs Professional Services Project C. Project C includes locations along Craven Street in Asheville and includes 5 Stormwater Control Measure sites.

Staff Resource(s)

- Amy Deyton, Director, Public Works Department
- Derek Wainscott, Stormwater Division Manager, Public Works

Action Requested

- Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with TRC, in the amount of $224,800 for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery - Stormwater Repairs Professional Services - Project C, to repair or replace damaged stormwater infrastructure; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the 15% contingency amount of $33,720; and approval of a budget amendment of $258,520 to add federal and state funds to the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund.

Background

- The City of Asheville has a need to hire qualified engineering professionals to help the City rebuild its infrastructure after severe damage from Tropical Storm Helene.
- There are roughly fifty (50) locations in the City-wide Stormwater Repairs Helene Recovery Project where standalone stormwater infrastructure was damaged from the storm, including pipes, catch basins, junction boxes, head/end walls, inlets, and outlets.
- In an effort to accelerate the project schedule, the standalone locations were separated into three design projects (Project A, B, and C).
- The sites were primarily grouped geographically and by work type (e.g. stormwater control measures).
- On December 19, 2025, staff posted a Request for Qualifications (298-FY26-PW-RFQ-Stormwater Repairs - Helene Recovery Project) for the services to design stormwater repairs.
- The qualifications were due January 29, 2026. Fifteen submissions were received and evaluated for each of the three projects by a four-member selection committee from the Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments.
- Project C is one of three contracts to repair stormwater infrastructure damages from Tropical Storm Helene. Project C includes locations along Craven Street in Asheville

and includes five (5) Stormwater Control Measure sites consisting of Porous Paving, Planted Treatment Swale, Wetland system, and Bioretention.

- The scope of design and engineering services encompasses:
    - Restoration of five (5) Stormwater Control Measures located on or near Craven Street
    - Analysis of the stormwater system, including, but not limited to, bioretention, porous pavers, wetlands, swales, pipe sizing and additional treatment methods for mitigation.
    - Repair or replacement of any related embankment, subgrade, roadway pavement, curb and gutter, concrete sidewalk, handrails, and armoring or energy dissipation which is disturbed by the pipe replacement or repair.
    - Recommendations on mitigation work and opportunities for resiliency.
    - Preparation of all necessary regulatory and environmental compliance documentation.
    - Final construction documents ready for bid advertising.
- Funding for this project is anticipated to come from multiple sources, including FEMA PA and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposed Schedule:
  Design and Permitting: May 2026 - February 2027
  Construction Bid: March 2027

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The Selection process was a qualifications-based selection process.
- Staff performed outreach to minority- and women-owned businesses through solicitation processes which include posting on the State's Interactive Purchasing System.
- 9 MWBE vendors were notified of the City of Asheville professional services opportunity.
- TRC was selected by staff as the best-qualified firm to deliver the requested services for Stormwater Recovery Project C.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment
- Transportation and Accessibility

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s)

- Repair of damaged stormwater infrastructure
- Restore runoff treatment areas and improve water quality flowing to French Broad River

Con(s)

- Construction impacts resulting in detour routes for residents, visitors, and property owners.

Fiscal Impact

- This project is expected to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Public Assistance (FEMA-PA) program and by Federal Emergency Management Agency - Hazard Mitigation Assistance (FEMA-HMA). Should recommendations from the consultant include additional scope of work that is non-Helene stormwater improvements, the Stormwater Fund will be used to provide the necessary funding.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with TRC, in the amount of $224,800 for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery - Stormwater Repairs Professional Services - Project C, to repair or replace damaged stormwater infrastructure; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the 15% contingency amount of $33,720; and approval of a budget amendment of $258,520 to add federal and state funds to the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Ordinance

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with TRC, for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery - Stormwater Repairs Professional Services - Project C, one of three City-wide recovery projects to repair or replace damaged stormwater infrastructure.

Whereas, over the course of September 26-29, 2024, the City of Asheville experienced unprecedented rainfall both from Tropical Storm Helene and a predecessor heavy rain event, resulting in severe damage, primarily from the ensuing flooding and landslides; and

Whereas, the equipment and staffing capacity needed for recovery efforts exceeded that which was available of the City's internal capacity, rendering it necessary to contract for these services; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-64 qualifications were solicited for Engineering and Design Services for City-wide Stormwater Repairs and Replacements Asheville, NC 298-FY26-PW-RFQ-StormwaterRepairs - Helene Recovery Project ("RFQ"), on December 19th, 2025 and TRC ("Contractor") was selected by staff as the best qualified firm to deliver the requested services for Stormwater Recovery Project C; and

Whereas, funding for the project is expected to be fully offset by reimbursements: 90% through the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Public Assistance program and the remaining 10% from state sources for damages. Furthermore, additional funding will be pursued for project mitigation and enhancements from Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; and

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with TRC, in the amount of $224,800 for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery - Stormwater Repairs Professional Services - Project C, to repair or replace damaged stormwater infrastructure; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the 15% contingency amount of $33,720; and approval of a budget amendment of $258,520 to add federal and state funds to the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

_____
Brad Branham, City Attorney

_____
Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk

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 $258,520 to the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund for Helene Recovery: Stormwater Repairs PW-G49 Professional Services (aka Stormwater Recovery Project C) as follows:

Stormwater Capital Projects Fund

Revenues:

Fed Revenue Distribution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - $232,668
State Revenue Distribution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - $25,852

Total Revenues: $258,520

Expenditures:

Professional services - $258,520

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

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

_____
Brad Branham, City Attorney

_____
Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk