City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- April 28, 2026

Subject

- Helene Recovery: Stormwater Repairs Professional Services Project A. Project A includes locations primarily in the north and west areas of Asheville and includes 25 individual stormwater 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 W.K. Dickson & Co., LLC d/b/a Ardurra Group North Carolina ("Ardurra"), in the amount of $1,001,899 for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery - Stormwater Repairs Professional Services - Project A, 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 $150,285; and approval of a budget amendment of $1,152,184 to add federal and state funds and appropriated Stormwater fund balance 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 A is one of three contracts (Project A) to repair stormwater infrastructure damages from Tropical Storm Helene. Project A includes locations primarily in the north and west areas of Asheville and includes 25 pipes.
- The scope of design and engineering services encompasses:
    - Analysis of the stormwater system, including, but not limited to, pipe sizing and potential end treatments 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) grants.
- City funds may be required to cover the costs for one of the contract sites, as it does not qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency - Public Assistance (FEMA-PA) funding.
- 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 included posting on the State's Interactive Purchasing System.
- 9 MWBE vendors were notified of the City of Asheville professional services opportunity.
- Ardurra was selected by staff as the best-qualified firm to deliver the requested services for Stormwater Recovery Project A.

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
- Upgrading of existing pipes to meet current City Codes in size and material

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.
- The attached budget amendment also appropriates $104,027 in Stormwater fund balance to pay for work that is not FEMA eligible. Staff will apply for additional grants to cover this cost but in the interim, fund balance is needed to fully fund the contract.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with W.K. Dickson & Co., LLC d/b/a Ardurra Group North Carolina ("Ardurra"), in the amount of $1,001,899 for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery - Stormwater Repairs Professional Services - Project A, 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 $150,285; and approval of a budget amendment of $1,152,184 to add federal and state funds and appropriated Stormwater fund balance to the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with W.K. Dickson & Co., LLC d/b/a Ardurra Group North Carolina ("Ardurra"), for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery - Stormwater Repairs Professional Services - Project A, 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. § 143-64.31 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 Ardurra ("Contractor") was selected by staff as the best qualified firm to deliver the requested services for Stormwater Recovery Project A; 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 W.K. Dickson & Co., LLC d/b/a Ardurra Group North Carolina ("Ardurra"), in the amount of $1,001,899 for design and engineering services for Stormwater Recovery Project A, one of three City-wide recovery projects, 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 $150,285; and approval of a budget amendment of $1,152,184 to add federal and state funds and appropriated Stormwater fund balance to the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund.

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

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 $1,152,184 to the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund for Helene Recovery: Stormwater Repairs PW-G37 and PW-G41 Professional Services (aka Stormwater Recovery Project A) as follows:

Stormwater Capital Projects Fund

Revenues:

Fed Revenue Distribution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - $943,341
State Revenue Distribution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - $104,816
Appropriation of Fund Balance - $104,027

Total Revenues: $1,152,184

Expenditures:

Professional services - $1,152,184

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.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk