City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: June 23, 2026

Staff Resources:

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

Action Requested:

Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP in the amount of $2,697,136 for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery Project - Citywide Roadways and Sidewalks; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $404,570 (15%); and approval of a budget amendment of $3,101,706 to add federal and state funds to the General Capital Projects Fund.

Background:

- The City of Asheville has a need to hire qualified engineering professionals to help the City repair City infrastructure damaged during Tropical Storm Helene.
- There are thirty-six (36) locations in the Helene Recovery Project - Citywide Roadways and Sidewalks where City infrastructure was damaged by Tropical Storm Helene, including asphalt, sidewalks, greenways, street trees, stormwater pipes, signage, and traffic signals.
- On April 9, 2026, staff posted a Request for Qualifications (298-FY26-PW-RFQ - Roadways and Sidewalks - Helene Recovery Project) for professional services to design repairs for damaged City roadways and sidewalks.
- The deadline for statements of qualifications by interested firms was April 30, 2026. Ten (10) statements of qualifications were received and evaluated by a five-member selection committee from the Public Works and Transportation Departments.
- The scope of design and engineering services encompasses:
    - Permanent restoration design services of the damaged infrastructure including FEMA PA restoration and cost-effective hazard mitigation projects to protect the infrastructure from future damage.
    - Perform geotechnical borings and investigations and slope stability analysis and create formal stability reports.
    - Engineering designs needed for preparation of construction drawings and specifications, cost estimates, and bid documents.
    - Stormwater design and calculations to provide adequate drainage as needed for the individual sites.

    - Preparation of beneficial cost analysis and FEMA cost reasonableness for all designs to ensure the more cost-effective option.
    - Applications for any necessary Federal, State, or Local permits.
    - Costs tracking associated with the multiple Federal and State programs for reimbursement and/or funding.
    - Construction administration during construction of repairs.

Vendor Outreach:

- 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.
- Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP. was selected by a committee of staff as the best-qualified firm to deliver the requested services for Helene Recovery Project - Citywide Roadways and Sidewalks.

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

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). Any expenses not eligible under the Federal Grants will be covered by the existing Streets budget in the General Capital Projects Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP in the amount of $2,697,136 for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery Project - Citywide Roadways and Sidewalks; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $404,570 (15%); and approval of a budget

amendment of $3,101,706 to add federal and state funds to the General 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 Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP. for design and engineering services for Helene Recovery Project - Citywide Roadways and Sidewalks to repair Helene damaged roads and sidewalks within the City of Asheville..

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 catastrophic 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 Roadways and Sidewalks Asheville, NC 298-FY26-PW-RFQ-Roadways and Sidewalks - Helene Recovery Project on April 9, 2026, and Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP. ("Contractor") was selected by staff as the best qualified firm to deliver the requested services; 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 from Federal Emergency Management Agency - Hazard Mitigation Assistance (FEMA-HMA); 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 Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP., in the amount of $2,697,136 for design and engineering services for Citywide Roadways and Sidewalks; and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the 15% contingency amount of $404,570 (15%); and approval of a budget amendment of $3,101,706 to add federal and state funds to the General Capital Projects Fund.

Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of June, 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 $3,101,706 to the General Capital Projects Fund for Helene Recovery - City-wide Citywide Roadways and Sidewalks Professional Services as follows:

General Capital Projects Fund

Revenues:

Federal Revenue Distribution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - $2,791,535

State Revenue Distribution - Federal Emergency Management Agency - $310,171

Expenditures:

Professional Services - $3,101,706

Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of June, 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