

Council Agenda Report

Date: April 10, 2017

Prepared by: Brent Jett, PE, Civil Engineer

Submitted by: Oden C. Wheeler Jr., Director DPW

SUBJECT: Award of contract for the seawall improvements

Recommendation:

That the Council approve the award of contract for the seawall investigation and improvement design for Choptank Ave, West End Ave, Willis St, and Oakley St to George, Miles & Buhr, LLC (GMB) of Salisbury, MD in the amount of \$35,000.

Discussion:

On February 8, 2016 Council approved submission of a grant application to the Chesapeake and Coastal Service program part of Maryland's Community Resiliency Grant arm of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR.) Currently the existing seawalls are at or near the end of their service life and need replacement. The focus of the grant is to review the current conditions of the seawalls owned and maintained by the City at the head of these 4 streets and to provide permit and construction documents for their replacement. Due to the elevation of the street ends, the seawalls are the only barrier between the roadway and the Choptank River. During storms, they protect the streets as well the infrastructure located with the right-of-way from wave action. Further, they protect the private residence along those streets from being washed away during higher tides and during storm events. All the homes located on these streets on the north side of Hambrooks Blvd are within the FEMA floodplain. The submission was made and the City was successful, receiving funds earmarked in the amount of \$35,000 for this project.

The RFP for the improvements was published and 5 firms submitted proposals to the City. Staff has reviewed the submittals based on a fee total of \$35,000 to satisfy the extent of the grant terms and the firms qualifications. GMB has been selected as the consultant that submitted the best overall proposal based on their experience on similar projects as well as their previous work with the City. The copies of the proposals are available for review at DPW and City Hall.

There will be a public outreach session with the residents on these 4 blocks along the Choptank River as well as surrounding areas in the West End to discuss the issues they are facing on a more frequent basis along with sea level rise and climate change and how the improved seawalls will help address their concerns. A report on the current conditions of the seawalls will be completed. Design drawings for replacement walls, along with construction budget estimates will also be delivered to the City. These plans will be ready for permitting when the City is ready to perform the replacement. On Choptank Ave, a section of green infrastructure at the end of the street will be designed with complete drawings and plans prepared for this installation, should

the City decide to construct the improvements in the future. The advantage of the green infrastructure section would be nutrient removal from runoff entering the Choptank River and possible reduction of flood affects to the residents and City utilities and roads.

While this round of grants focused on design and preparedness due to flooding, it is anticipated that subsequent rounds will focus on implementation and construction of designed improvements. The deliverables from the consultant will allow for a bolstered grant application to replace the seawalls at the heads of these 4 streets in the near future.

Fiscal Impact:

The City was awarded the DNR grant in the amount of \$35,000 to complete this project. Successful. Upon completion of this study, staff will look for grant opportunities to complete the recommended improvements.

Approved By: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager 