AGENDA STATEMENT

City of Bellaire

MEETING: City Council - Sep 14 2020
PREPARED BY: ChaVonne Sampson
DEPARTMENT: Development Services

ITEM TITLE:

Consideration of and possible action by the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to authorize the City Manager of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to sign all application materials for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program and any other documents necessary to effectuate such application to apply for financial assistance to abandon the existing wastewater facilities and provide for alternate service options - Submitted by ChaVonne Sampson, Director of Development Services

RECOMMENDATION:

The Director of Development Services recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to authorize and pursue documentation necessary to apply for federal funds for the proposed project.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

In February of 2018, Congress appropriated $12 billion dollars in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds specifically for mitigation activities for qualifying disasters in 2015, 2016, and 2017. HUD was able to allocate an additional $3.9 billion, bringing the amount available for mitigation to nearly $16 billion. The CDBG Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program is a unique opportunity for City of Bellaire to continue mitigation activities adopted in the 2018 Bellaire Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Harris County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The proposed application will meet program goals that align with HUD objectives and the State of Texas CDBG-MIT Action Plan. The City of Bellaire's current WWTP is located within the Brays Bayou watershed inside Loop 610 in Southwest Houston. Flooding from rainfall events has inundated the plant, lift station, and operations building multiple times over the last few years including from Hurricane Harvey, the Memorial Days Floods of 2015 and the Tax Day Floods of 2016. The facility is within the 100 year floodplain and is very susceptible to future flooding events that will impact the City's ability to provide wastewater service during now frequent rainfall events and potentially lead to wastewater excursions from flooding conditions.

The project for this application is the abandonment of the current wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) facilities, identification and implementation of alternate wastewater treatment options and facilities, along with the abandonment of the current site to allow for future use as a stormwater detention area.

The summary of those items listed above will be used to develop a scope and project description, along with project work plan and budget necessary for the application process.

There is a 1% match that City Council will need to identify prior to grant submission that will provide a considerable benefit towards the scoring and potential award of grant funds for this project. That designation along with the need to address additional grant requirements via council actions will be presented prior to completion of the application process.

The request for Council this evening is toprovide the City Manager the authority to pursue the CDBG-MIT grant opportunity as presented. If this is approved, staff will began the application process and will be presenting additional items at upcoming City Council meetings in preparation of submitting a completed application by October 28th, 2020.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

City Council approved the Flood Mitigation Report March 2018 which identified this effort.

City Council approved the Harris Count Hazard Mitigation Plan July 2020 which also identified this effort.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The formal designation of the 1% match will have to be approved prior to submittal of the application and acceptance of any grant funding.

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW:

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

CDBG-MIT Application Process

September 14, 2020

Proposed CDBG-MIT Project

The following is a summary of the proposed project:

- Abandonment of the current wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) facilities
- Identification and implementation of alternate wastewater treatment options and facilities
- Abandonment of the current site to allow for future use as a stormwater detention area

Wastewater Treatment Plant Prior and Future Improvements

Previous WWTP Improvement Projects (prior 5-years)

- Aeration System - $2.4 million
- Digester Upgrades - $1.3 million
- Main Lift Station - $2.8 million
- Disinfection System Conversion - $532,000
- RAS Pumps & Flow Controls -$432,000

Currently Anticipated WWTP Improvement Needs (3-5 years)

- Belt Press Improvements - $1 million
- Electrical Upgrades - $1.2 million
- Tanks and Basins Improvements - $750,000

CDBG-MIT Program Overview and Requirements

- Mitigation Project - Prevent the damage and hardships that may occur from some event in the future
- CDBG-MIT program allows municipalities to address frequently occurring issues without greatly impacting City budgets
- Required to follow federal acquisition guidelines (Uniform Relocation Act) to acquire any property for the new control building
- Follow NEPA environmental guidelines before any construction begins
- Must utilize federal prevailing wages (Davis Bacon Act) during the construction of any improvements
- Required to maintain the project files for 3 years after the closeout of the grant

CDBG-MIT Application Process

September 14, 2020