CITY OF MARSHALL

COMMISSION AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET:

MEETING DATE: June 11, 2015

PROJECT: Consider and respond to a report by Hayes Engineering regarding an engineering flood study of the FEMA Floodplain and Floodway in Turtle Creek, beginning upstream of South Washington and extending downstream, and application for a FEMA Letter of Map Revision. (Hayes Engineering)

DESCRIPTION:
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain and floodway maps have not been updated since the original flood maps were developed for the City of Marshall in the early 1980's. Unfortunately, the cost of flood insurance for businesses or homeowners is tied to these outdated FEMA maps. One area that has recently come to our attention, due to an increase in homes for sale, is the Turtle Creek Subdivision where many homes back up to a concrete lined channel for Turtle Creek while other homes in the subdivision are also designated as being in the FEMA floodplain due to their close proximity to Turtle Creek or their floor elevation.

An area engineer familiar with flood control, flood mapping, and FEMA guidelines and regulations, Joe Harle with Hayes Engineering in Longview, Texas has been performing this study and has completed his base findings, which he will forward to FEMA in the form of a letter of Map Revision (LOMR) based on his findings. His review has determined that on average, the base flood elevation in the Turtle Creek study area will be reduced by 1'-6" and in some isolated areas, as much as 2'-0" – all great news for homeowners in that area. Ultimately, homeowners will be responsible for securing a survey of their foundation elevation and notifying their insurance carrier of the new base flood elevation.

The engineering firm will submit an application with FEMA to have the flood elevations updated. A preliminary digital map prepared by Hayes Engineering can be used for review until the FEMA Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) is approved by FEMA late this summer or early fall.

Once the LOMR is approved by FEMA, residents could realize a savings in their annual flood insurance costs that currently ranges from $400 to $1,200 a year and could result in several properties being removed from the floodplain. This study and resulting LOMR will also extend similar benefits to homes

on Gail Drive, Gail Circle, and homes on South Garrett as well as the adjacent neighborhood within the Turtle Creek floodplain.

COST:
The cost to perform this detailed hydraulic study of the Turtle Creek watershed (as previously approved by the City Commission) and the application for the LOMR from FEMA was $25,000 and will be spread out over the 2014 and 2015 budget years; cost is being covered within the existing Public Services – Streets & Drainage Divisional budgets.

FUNDING:	**Acct. Name & No**	**Original Budget**
Public Services	01-05-02 (streets/drainage)	-0-

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
No formal action required.

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ATTACHMENTS:
N/A