



CITY OF MARSHALL

COMMISSION AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET:

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2015

PROJECT: Consider and respond to a report regarding creation of a Municipal Drainage Utility and a Preliminary Storm Water Master Plan. (Public Services Director)

DESCRIPTION:

During our presentation to the City Commission at the May 28th City Commission Meeting, one of the recommendations from staff was to consider creating a Municipal Drainage Utility System to fund needed drainage improvements and detention facilities.

Drainage issues have become a high priority after recent floods and as a result of one of the wettest Spring periods on record. Drainage has always been an issue in Marshall because of our hilly terrain, and it affects the safety of everyone as well as damaging homes, businesses, streets, and other drainage structures, especially during heavy rains. Our current 2015 budget allots \$15,000 for drainage improvements, and no funds allocated for bridges or culverts improvements.

Funding is the major issue facing drainage improvements. Chapter 552 of the Local Government Code allows cities to create a Municipal Drainage Utility System and levy a monthly fee on each water bill to fund needed drainage improvements. In 2012, approximately 90 cities in Texas have a Drainage Utility; Tyler is the nearest to Marshall. Longview passed a drainage sales tax many years ago and that is how they have been addressing their drainage issues.

We have researched what some of the other cities have done with their Municipal Drainage Utility System funds and found they are using revenue to 1) hire personnel dedicated to addressing drainage, 2) buy needed heavy and associated equipment dedicated to drainage, and 3) fund drainage projects. In reviewing the cities with a system in place, the average monthly fee is in the range of \$3.00/month per water bill. Based on \$3.00 a bill (9,000) times 12 months would generate approximately \$324,000 a year in revenue to materially address drainage in Marshall.

Creation of a Municipal Drainage Utility requires a rate study to determine an appropriate fee, based on a Drainage Master Plan, but the cost for that study can be reimbursed by the fee.

Attached is a draft Five Year Drainage Master Plan as a starting point.

RECOMMENDATION:

Research the possibility of creating a Municipal Drainage Utility System to fund needed drainage improvements and detention facilities.

COST:

To be determined

FUNDING:

To be determined

Acct. Name & No

N/A

Original Budget

N/A

RECOMMENDED

ACTION:

Consider creation of a Municipal Drainage Utility and a Preliminary Storm Water Master Plan.
(Director of Public Services)

CITY CONTACT: J. C. Hughes, Public Services Director 903-503-4503

ATTACHMENTS:

Public Works Five Year Master Plan

cc: File

