OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
Adoption of the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Coleman Creek.	√ Ordinance Resolution	
Submitted By:		
Public Works Department		Bruce T. Moore City Manager
SYNOPSIS	An ordinance to adopt the February 26, 2021, Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Coleman Creek in Little Rock, Arkansas.	
FISCAL IMPACT	None.	
RECOMMENDATION	Approval of the ordinance.	
BACKGROUND	The Arkansas State Legislature has, in Ark. Code Ann. § 14-268-101 et seq., delegated the responsibility of local governmental units to adopt regulations to minimize flood losses. On July 29, 2019, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Agency (FEMA) submitted preliminary copies of new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report to the City of Little Rock for Coleman Creek which was last studied in the early1980's. This preliminary version of the FIRM and FIS Report updated the flood hazard information in Little Rock, Pulaski County Arkansas. As a condition of participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, the City must adopt by ordinance, the FEMA Flood Maps and enforce the requirement of the Flood Insurance Program.	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION DECEMBER 1, 2020 AGENDA

BACKGROUND CONTINUED

Special Flood Hazard Areas are subject to periodic flooding events that result in loss of life and property, pose health and safety hazards, disrupt commerce and governmental services, and cause extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare.

A ninety (90)-day public comment and appeal period was initiated on January 28, 2020, when FEMA published a notice of the preliminary flood hazard determinations for Little Rock in The Daily Record and the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. The flood hazard determinations included the addition of and/or modifications to base flood elevations, base flood depths, special flood hazard areas, zone designations, and regulatory floodways. During the public comment period, correspondence was received by FEMA and City Staff from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension facility, University of Arkansas Little Rock and other property owners. All comments were resolved and no appeals of the proposed flood hazard determinations were submitted. No significant changes were made to the final flood hazard data as a result of the public comment and review process.

On August 26, 2020, following resolution of comments, FEMA notified staff of the publishing of the notice of the final flood hazard determinations in *The Federal Register*.

It is believed sufficient outreach and notice methods of the preliminary FIRMs has occurred. It is also believed ample time was provided for receipt and resolution of comments and appeals. With that, staff recommends adoption of the February 26, 2021, FIRMs and FIS Report for Coleman Creek to promote the public health, safety and general welfare, to prevent adverse impacts from any floodplain development activities, and to minimize public and private losses due to flooding events in identified Special Flood Hazard Areas.