**City of Myrtle Beach Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Meeting #5: Draft Plan Meeting**

**October 21, 2020, 10:00AM to 12:00PM**

**WebEx Meeting**

Margaret Walton, project manager from Atkins, opened up the meeting with a roll call to ensure that we captured all of the attendees and reminded everyone to ensure they signed in for the committee meetings they participated in previously.

Ms. Walton shared the project tasks that had taken place to develop the draft plan for review. She highlighted the key objectives below and especially the one to maintain the City’s CRS status.

* Update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Myrtle Beach
* Maintain mitigation funding and grant eligibility
* Identify potential projects
* Increase public awareness and education
* Maintain compliance with State and Federal requirements
* Maintain current CRS status

She also reminded the committee that another public outreach meeting would take place virtually closer to the FEMA approval of the plan and final adoption by the City. The plan is slated to expire in February so the FEMA approval pending adoption is expected in January as this draft plan will be sent in early November.

In order to ensure that all of the major components of the plan are reviewed, Ms. Walton outlined the hazard risk tiers and a lengthy discussion ensued. She noted that the bulk of the plan is the risk assessment which consists of the hazard identification and analysis and the vulnerability assessment. From this discussion, it was decided that the following changes would be implemented in the plan:

* Hailstorm would be moved to lower risk based on the lack of events in the last five years.
* The airplane crash hazard would be separated into commercial airplane crashes at low risk and small aircraft crashes into moderate risk. This was based on the information that private, smaller planes frequently fly over the ocean and crash on an annual basis; whereas, commercial jets flying into the Myrtle Beach airport are much less likely.
* Lightning was discussed and determined to be a moderate risk and as a separate hazard instead of grouping it with thunderstorms.
* The hazard of high wind was discussed and whether it should be included with thunderstorm; however, since it was ranked as high it was kept the same.
* The hazard of ice storm was changed to have the addition of winter weather and be moved to low risk as snow has only occurred twice in 20 years.
* Extreme heat was warranted as high risk and should be moved up from moderate due to the number of days the City experiences at high temperatures. The hospital representative agreed with that assessment based on the number of victims the hospital has based on extreme heat.
* The County representative noted that these hazard rankings were in alignment with the County’s rankings in their mitigation plan.

Ms. Walton also brought up the repetitive loss claims information within the plan. Previously, we have included it within the flood profile as well as a map. She asked if the committee was comfortable with continuing to include this information as long as individual property address were not included. It was decided that this is beneficial and supports the City’s CRS program. It was also determined that knowing where the repetitive loss issues occurs helps to focus on mitigating the problems. At this time, it was also mentioned that if another change occurs in the City with doubling density in certain zones, then the current land use plan would need to be amended thereby changing goal 6.

The committee continued to have a discussion on the general growth overall in the County and the expectations for the City of Myrtle Beach. It was asked that this information from the County be included in the plan and Ms. Walton suggested that it be included in the community profile section and the flood profile in the hazard identification and analysis section of the plan. Committee member, Allison Hardin, sent the information to the project POC, Emily Hardee, and Ms. Walton. It was noted that the land use plans for the City would not be updated with this information until next year due to the lack of staffing.

The dialogue then moved to the update of the mitigation actions with updating of the land use plan as part of an existing action. It was decided that it could be included with action NRP-4 to indicate areas that should not be developed for residential use.

The next action of discussion was the need for a resiliency element to be part of an action to meet the requirements of the comprehensive plan under the new state Disaster Relief and Resilience Act 163 that was signed into law in September.

Other newly proposed mitigation actions are from the annual report which are participating in the annual update of the evacuation plan and drill that exercises the plan and updating GIS mapping based on the recent hurricane seasons. It was noted that the County would be going through the next Hurricane Evacuation Study in 2021 which will focus on areas of evacuation clearance times, evacuation zone updates, and housing infrastructure.

The committee continued to walk through all of the existing items and provide updates to Ms. Walton and Sara Seremak of Atkins. The changes were conducted in the mitigation action table concurrently. It was stated that Atkins would clean up the actions and other sections of the plan and post them on a google drive for review and comment by the committee during a two-week period.

Finally, Ms. Walton mentioned again that the second public meeting would be virtual and closer to 2 weeks near the actual plan approval date. The committee members were asked for any additional feedback and hearing none the meeting concluded.