

City of South Daytona

Office of the City Manager

1672 S. Ridgewood Avenue • South Daytona, FL 32119 • 386/322-3014



MEMORANDUM

To: James L. Gillis Jr., City Manager

From: Becky Witte, Deputy City Clerk

Re: Consideration of approving a Work Authorization in the amount of \$148,500 with Mead and Hunt for the evaluation of the City's stormwater system in an effort to reduce the flooding caused by Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Milton.

Date: October 24, 2024

When Hurricane Ian struck this area in 2022, it was labeled as a “once in a lifetime storm” for the devastating flooding it caused throughout Volusia County. Just two short years later, Hurricane Milton cut a path across Florida causing widespread flooding yet again. Now that we know these “once in a lifetime storms” have the potential to occur much more frequently than the experts previously thought, staff is recommending that we evaluate our stormwater system to identify the improvements needed to help us better manage these severe flooding rain events.

The best way to perform this evaluation is through the use of stormwater modeling. If the City's stormwater system could be modeled, then the flooding experienced by the severe rainfall generated by both Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Milton can be recreated. Potential solutions can be introduced into the model to determine their effectiveness towards reducing the flooding experienced from this new breed of storms. The most effective solutions identified could then be added into our capital improvement program for implementation and grant acquisition.

The engineering firm, Mead and Hunt, is one of the City's consultants under a continuing contract for the provision of engineering services including design. They are a large national firm with staff who have been working with the City on various projects for the past 25 years. Staff believes they are capable of generating an effective stormwater model as they have performed the same service for other cities throughout Florida.

If the Work Authorization is approved, the creation of the model will begin immediately. The development of the model and identifying those drainage improvements deemed to be most effective will take approximately six months to complete. The consultant will have drainage engineers on-hand at the Piggotte Community Center on select dates where homeowners can discuss the effects of the flooding on their individual properties so that each person willing to participate can be included in the study to be conducted. The select dates and times will be shared on the City's Facebook page, website and message signs located at City Hall and the Piggotte Community Center once they are determined.

Staff recommends that the Work Authorization submitted by Mead and Hunt in the amount of \$148,500 be approved to evaluate our stormwater system so that effective improvements can be made to reduce flooding.