



## Legislation Text

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File #: 18-575, Version: 1

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**TO:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**THRU:** Kristoff Bauer, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** Sheila Thomas-Ambat, P.E., Interim Public Services Director

**DATE:** January 7, 2019

**RE:** Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance Policy

**COUNCIL DISTRICT(S):** All

**Relationship To Strategic Plan:**

High quality built environment

**Executive Summary:**

The City has grown significantly over the past two decades however policies related to stormwater infrastructure maintenance have not kept up with this growth. Staff will provide an informative presentation to Council that highlights the challenges of maintaining, repairing, and replacing stormwater infrastructure in a City of over 200,000 residents.

**Background:**

Stormwater infrastructure consists of a network of catch basins, drop inlets, swales, pipes, and stormwater control measures (SCM's) that carry stormwater runoff away from roadways and property, ultimately discharging it into creeks and streams. A great deal of this infrastructure is maintained by the City but an even larger portion is located on private property and considered the responsibility of property owners.

Responsibility for stormwater infrastructure comes at a cost for the City. Equipment, supplies, and personnel are needed to perform maintenance with a cost proportional to the size of the system being maintained. Additionally, stormwater infrastructure has a life cycle cost that typically requires greater funding for repairs with age and ultimately capital funding for full replacement after the functional life of the system is over.

Peer cities of Fayetteville generally have well defined policies regarding the responsibility for stormwater infrastructure. Almost all North Carolina cities the size of Fayetteville or larger maintain stormwater infrastructure only in the public right-of-way.

**Issues/Analysis:**

City staff are not currently resourced with the personnel or equipment to proactively and consistently

maintain the infrastructure located within the right-of-way in accordance with a defined level-of service. Maintaining the infrastructure outside of the right-of-way would require a significant increase in the operational budget and eventually an enormous investment in capital replacement. Without adoption of ordinance and policy changes, the City is in a position to inherit a significant liability in the form of future stormwater infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement.

**Budget Impact:**

Maintenance of off right-of-way stormwater infrastructure is estimated to be nearly \$1.53 million annually and is projected to increase overtime. If the City were to take responsibility for off right-of-way infrastructure, it is estimated that capital replacement costs would be \$4.17 million annually and increase significantly over time.

**Options:**

City Council adopts future revisions to the ordinance that articulates scope of responsibility for stormwater infrastructure maintenance based on a desired level of service, adopts a policy of performing operations & maintenance only within the City public Right-of-Way, and directs staff to develop a “Drainage Assistance Program” for future consideration by Council.

Do not adopt future ordinance revisions, do not direct staff to develop a “Drainage Assistance Program” and direct staff to provide specific budgetary and staffing needs to meet an alternate level of service for stormwater maintenance.

**Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends the City Council adopts future revisions to the ordinance that articulates scope of responsibility for stormwater infrastructure maintenance based on a desired level of service, adopts a policy of performing operations & maintenance only within the City public Right-of-Way, and directs staff to develop a “Drainage Assistance Program” for future consideration by Council.

**Attachments:**

Infrastructure Maintenance Presentation PDF