Council Communication

Department: Community Development Case/Project No.: N/A	Ordinance No.: N/A Resolution No.: 20-	City Council: March 9, 2020

Subject/Title

Execute a grant agreement with the Flood Mitigation Board for the Council Bluffs Property Acquisition project related to the 2019 flood disaster declaration

Location

735 Benson Street, 4024 Avenue D and 4046 Avenue D

Background/Discussion

Background

In October 2019, Pottawattamie County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) notified us of a possible flood buyout program, funded by the State of Iowa, for residents affected by Missouri River flooding. We worked with EMA to solicit inquiries from all interested Council Bluffs residents. Residents within Council Bluffs city limits submitted a total of 230 inquiries. The cost to buyout 230 properties would be over $30 million.

Because of the widespread interest in the possible buyout program, City Staff identified key priorities for assessing properties for a buyout. Priority areas were determined based on (1) units with foundation collapses; (2) repeated impact by flash flooding annually causing continuous damage to properties; and (3) creating a buffer along the levee, allowing for easier access and maintenance. These three priority areas would ensure flood sustainability, mitigation, and continued resiliency for all residents of Council Bluffs.

On February 5, the City submitted a request for State Flood Recovery Assistance for $9.8 million to buyout 68 properties that met at least one of the three priorities.

Discussion

On February 14, the Flood Mitigation Board (FMB) awarded the City of Council Bluffs $342,540 to acquire and demolish three properties that sustained foundation collapses. The FMB determined only projects that could show actual, critical damage would be awarded at this time with the hope for additional funding from FEMA, HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program and the Iowa State Legislature.

Staff Recommendation

The Community Development Department recommends authorizing the Mayor to execute a $342,540 grant agreement with the Flood Mitigation Board for the acquisition and demolition of properties identified as sustaining foundation collapses as part of the 2019 flood.