

City of Falls Church

Meeting Date: 11-09-2020	Title: (TR20-42) RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE STORMWATER TASK FORCE	Agenda No.: 07(b)(1)	
Proposed Motion: MOVE to adopt (TR20-42).			
Originating Dept. Head: Wyatt Shields, City Manager	Lead Staff:	Disposition by Council:	
City Manager: Wyatt Shields 703.248.5004 FWS 11-05-2020	City Attorney: Carol McCoskrie 703.248.5010 CWM 11-5-2020	CFO: Kiran Bawa 703.248.5092 KB 11-05-2020	City Clerk: Celeste Heath 703.248.5014 CH 11-05-20

REQUEST: Council is requested to amend the charter of the Stormwater Task Force to extend the sunset date to June 30, 2021 to allow continued work with staff on prioritizing green infrastructure projects in addition to the stormwater conveyance projects already identified and prioritized. Council is also requested to expand the charter to include providing recommendations on stormwater fees and a recommendation on the creation of a standing Utility Commission.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends adoption of (TR20-42).

BACKGROUND: The City Council created the Stormwater Task Force in October 2019 to work with staff to identify and prioritize stormwater projects to mitigate flooding in the City. This action was taken after a series of major storms that caused property damage across the City.

The City Council approved funding for the six major stormwater projects recommended by the Storm Water Task Force with the adoption of the FY2020 – 2026 Capital Improvements Program. On October 22, the City Council approved a bond resolution in the amount of \$400,000 to pay for detailed engineering plans for those six projects. This engineering work will proceed over the coming months, and when that engineering is complete, with final cost estimates, the City Council will then consider bond funding for the construction costs of those projects.

With the approval of the bond issuance for stormwater engineering, Council asked for a plan to move forward with smaller “green solutions” to stormwater problems throughout the watershed, using storm water detention best practices and citizen involvement.

These types of solutions are discussed in detail in the City’s adopted Watershed Master Plan. Chapter 5 in particular lists a series of such projects, with very preliminary engineering and public vetting.

34 Similar to the earlier task of identifying and prioritizing major conveyance
35 improvements, it is envisioned that the Stormwater Task Force can review the projects
36 identified in the Watershed Master Plan as well as new ideas, and provide a prioritized
37 list of improvements for incorporation in the City’s capital improvement and
38 operational plans.

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40 In addition, Council has asked for options on structuring stormwater rates to ensure
41 equity in sharing the cost burden of the stormwater program as a whole. The
42 Stormwater Task Force is proposed to be extended in order to work through those
43 policy options and provide a recommendation to the Council.

44

45 Lastly, there will be ongoing policy issues that merit in depth citizen review and input
46 in both the Stormwater Utility and Sanitary Sewer Utility. The Stormwater Task Force
47 can provide a recommendation on the merits of creating a standing Utilities
48 Commission that would work with staff to develop new policy for both utilities. In the
49 Sanitary Sewer Utility some examples of complex policy work that could benefit from
50 sustained and knowledgeable citizen review and input include: new policy to address
51 “inflow and infiltration” (I&I) from private laterals, drains, and sump pumps; ensuring
52 the Sanitary System meets demands for growth and has a connection fee rate structure
53 to support that growth; addressing treatment capacity with regional partners.

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55 **FISCAL IMPACT:** No direct fiscal impact.

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57 **TIMING:** Routine.

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59 **ATTACHMENTS:**

60 Stormwater Task Force Charter

61 City Code Section – Public Utilities Commission

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(TR20-42)

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66 RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE STORMWATER
67 TASK FORCE
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69 WHEREAS, the Falls Church City Council created a Stormwater Task Force on
70 October 28, 2019 with the adoption of Resolution 2019-35, which
71 contained a sunset date for the Task Force of July 1, 2020; and
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73 WHEREAS, the Stormwater Task Force provided recommendations on major
74 stormwater system improvements that were included in the FY2020 –
75 2026 Capital Improvements Program, along with recommendations on
76 how to finance such improvements; and
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78 WHEREAS, the City Council seeks additional recommendations on priority green
79 stormwater improvements and stormwater detention projects to
80 accompany and complement the projects previously recommended by the
81 Task Force, as well as recommendations on equitable stormwater rate
82 structures;
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84 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of
85 Falls Church, Virginia that:
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- 87 1) the term of the Stormwater Task Force (the Task Force) will end upon the
88 completion of its recommendations to the City Council, or July 1, 2021,
89 whichever occurs first, unless such term should be extended by a vote of the
90 City Council;
91 2) the Task Force will work with City staff to identify and prioritize stormwater
92 detention and green stormwater projects needed in the City as an update to
93 Section 5 of the Watershed Management Plan; and
94 3) the Task Force will provide recommendations on possible changes to the
95 stormwater rates to pay for such improvements in the most fair and equitable
96 manner; and
97 4) the Task Force will provide a recommendation on amendments to the City
98 Code with respect to the purpose, membership, and appointments to the City
99 Utility Commission; and
100 5) the Task Force shall present its initial recommendations for City Council
101 consideration and action by the month of March 2021.
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103 Reading:

104 Adoption:

105 (TR20-42)