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Briefing on Resilient Hampton

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Following the Dutch Dialogues in 2015, the first phase of Resilient Hampton developed a city-wide analysis and policy report *Living with Water Hampton: A Holistic Approach to Addressing Sea Level Rise and Resiliency* completed in December 2017 and endorsed by City Council in January 2018. This first phase established our values and set goals for resilience. City Council Resolution 18-0001 adopted key elements of the report into the Comprehensive Plan in July 2018. Elements included resilience goals and objectives, as well as discussion and maps of existing flooding and future anticipated conditions.

For the second phase, City Council selected Newmarket Creek as the initial area to pilot implementation of resilience goals and develop innovative solutions to reduce flood risk while, notably, enhancing quality of life. A January 2019 design workshop kicked off this phase to explore conceptual designs and develop a Newmarket Creek Pilot Area Water Plan. The major theme resulting from the workshop was to slow water where we can using green infrastructure, store water where we have space, redirect water where it makes sense, and adapt places where water naturally wants to go. The Resilient Hampton interdepartmental team, our consultants Waggonner & Ball from New Orleans and Bosch-Slobbers from the Netherlands, and many partners have made significant contributions to this effort.

Discussion:

On January 14, 2020, a community meeting was held to exhibit the culmination of this year-long effort and get additional community feedback on specific pilot projects designed to alleviate flooding while at the same time adding layered benefits to the community. Additionally, a new Resilient And Innovative Neighbors ("RAIN") grant program is in development that will incentivize individual property owners in making small-scale stormwater projects that contribute to the goals of Resilient Hampton.

Impact:

City Council has seen the proposed pilot projects and previously appropriated \$12 million to begin to implement the projects but asked staff to again meet with the community to get additional feedback.

Recommendation:

Staff will share key feedback from the community meeting and request City Council's approval to continue moving forward with implementation.