

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

FROM: Lance Norris, Director of Public Works
Sue Burke, P.E., Stormwater Management Engineer

SUBJECT: Public Hearing - Amendments to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to Adopt the Revised Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map Panels 9799 and 9789

DATE: June 15, 2009

PURPOSE

This Public Hearing has been called to receive comments to amend the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance by adding language to indicate where the Flood Insurance Study and Rate Maps are maintained on file, to enumerate mapping revisions, and to adopt the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map Panels 9799 and 9789 and the accompanying changes to Volume 1 of 3 of the Flood Insurance Study. The revisions are necessary as a result of additional survey data along Bolin Creek. The revised study and maps were issued by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Chapel Hill adopted the updated Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps in January 2007. The study and maps became effective on February 2, 2007. To correct a mapping error, FEMA revised Volumes 1 of 3 and 2 of 3 of the Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 9890, which were adopted by the Town Council in April 2008.

University Mall, located on Estes Drive, is in the regulatory floodplain of Bolin Creek. The mall owner had additional cross-sections surveyed along Bolin Creek between East Franklin Street and Fordham Boulevard. The survey data was incorporated into the modeling in order to more accurately model the Bolin Creek floodplain.

DISCUSSION

Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and the Flood Insurance Study may be revised as a result of better data being presented to the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) process.

University Mall submitted its LOMR application to the Town in August 2008. Town staff determined that the application complied with the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and University Mall was able to submit its application to FEMA and the North Carolina

Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management. The revised study and map panels were issued by FEMA in April 2009.

In order for the Town to maintain its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, the Town Council is required to conduct a public hearing and adopt the revised Flood Insurance Study and panels.

The effective date for the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and the Flood Insurance Study is July 31, 2009.

Further, the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance is being revised (1) to indicate that the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the Flood Insurance Study are maintained on file in the office of the Stormwater Engineer and (2) to enumerate mapping revisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the Council open the public hearing, receive public comments, and continue the public hearing until June 22nd. Citizens may submit written comments until June 12, 2009. Staff will summarize received comments, prepare responses, and present those to the Council at the June 22, 2009 meeting with the amended ordinance, revised Flood Insurance Rate Map Panels 9799 and 9789, and the Flood Insurance Study revisions for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Ordinance
2. LOMR Determination Document from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
3. Revised FIRM Panels 9799 and 9789
4. Revised Flood Profiles, Bolin Creek, Sheet 01P
5. Revised Floodway Data, Table 16, Bolin Creek
6. Revised Table 14 – Limited Detailed Flood Hazard Data, Page 61