



## Engineering Department

### MEMO

**To:** Dave Plyman, City Manager  
**CC:** Michelle Pease, Community Development Director  
Kip Countryman, Planning and Zoning Coordinator Community Development  
Alan Cooper, City Attorney (via council packet)  
**From:** Sam Tesreau, City Engineer  
**Date:** July 20, 2016  
**Re:** adoption of updated ordinance and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) per Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations  
**Encl:** (1) Revised floodplain ordinance – Chapter 46, Article II, Flood Hazard Area Development of the Rochelle Municipal Code

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- 1) No substantial engineering analysis or updates have been done to the FEMA FIRMs since the early 1980's. Therefore, in an effort to more accurately define the floodplain limits and base flood elevations the City of Rochelle engaged Engineering consultant Wills Burke Kelsey in late 2009 to begin work on a new floodplain study along the Kyte River and other associated tributaries throughout the City of Rochelle and approximately ½ mile outside the city limits as they existed at that time. After several years of engineering analysis, submittals and review by FEMA and the IDNR the new FEMA FIRMs have been approved and remapped by FEMA. FEMA staff has posted the required notices, provided the necessary public outreach meetings and allowed the necessary wait time for appeals on the multiple preliminary map panels which have been available online to the public for over a year. Subsequently, the City of Rochelle has received notice that it has until August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to adopt and have the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Office approve floodplain measures that satisfy 44 Code of the Federal regulations (CFR) Section 60.3(c) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations along with the revised countywide maps developed as part of the remapping and program. The City must adopt the new NFIP FEMA maps or map updates, along with the FIS, associated floodplain management measures such as a floodplain management ordinance that meet or exceed the minimum NFIP requirements by August 17, 2016, to avoid suspension from the NFIP. Suspension from the NFIP would

reduce or eliminate critical financial assistance from FEMA to the City and others throughout the community. This financial assistance includes certain federally guaranteed mortgages and direct loans, federal disaster relief loans and grants, as well as other similarly described assistance from FEMA and other agencies.

- 2) The new FIRMs, which cover the area in and around the City limits in Lee and Ogle counties, will go into effect August 17, 2016. City engineering staff has discussed and/or met with the office of the NFIP State Coordinator at the Illinois Department of Natural resources to discuss the ordinance. At this time it appears that the revised ordinance (enclosure 1) will meet or exceed the requirements with some minor modifications. However, adoption of this ordinance will allow submittal of the necessary documents to allow IDNR and FEMA to begin the final review before August 17, 2016. Please note this ordinance will repeal and replace other ordinances adopted by the City Council to fulfill the requirements of the NFIP but is not intended to repeal the original resolution or ordinance adopted to achieve eligibility in the program.
  
- 3) Please consider approval of enclosure (1) conditioned upon final review, modification and/or acceptance by IDNR and FEMA as well as recodification or modifications of Chapter 46 as required.