



**AGENDA ACTION FORM**

**Consideration of a Resolution to Amend the Engineering Agreement with Barge Design Solutions for Year Two Water Quality Assessment of the South Fork Holston River**

To: Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
From: Chris McCartt, City Manager *CM*

Action Form No.: AF-157-2026  
Work Session: May 18, 2026  
First Reading: N/A  
Final Adoption: May 19, 2026  
Staff Work By: Niki Ensor  
Presentation By: Ryan McReynolds

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**Strategic Focus Area: Efficient and Responsive Government**

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**Recommendation:**  
Approve the Resolution

**Executive Summary:**  
Approval of the resolution amends the Barge Design Agreement in the amount of \$602,965.00 for year two of a three-year study of the South Fork Holston River (SFHR).

In response to the South Fork Holston River (SFHR) being placed on the 303(d) list of impaired waterways and in preparation for the next NPDES permit cycle, it is in Kingsport's best interest to develop a thorough understanding and assessment of the quality of the SFHR. Beginning in 2016, TDEC listed the SFHR as impaired due to nutrients attributed to municipal point sources. Due to the limited number of data points and the manner of data collection, the City of Kingsport continues to disagree with the validity of the data used for this decision and has unsuccessfully requested TDEC to remove the listing since the original listing. Therefore, given the financial impact on our ratepayers of the possible inclusion of nutrient reduction in the next permit, we recommend developing a clear and transparent assessment of the SFHR.

On June 3, 2025, the Board approved an amendment with Barge Design Solutions, Inc. for Year 1b to provide the City with a chemical and biological water quality assessment of the SFHR from the Fort Patrick Henry Dam downstream to approximately 0.75 river miles below the confluence of the SFHR. Barge has engaged Dynamic Solutions to model the water quality and sediment data to develop a water quality model for the South Fork Holston River over the course of the three-year study.

While this is a multi-year project, we are only requesting approval to fund Year 2 at this time. The cost of this amendment is \$602,965, bringing the total contract cost to \$1,204,790. Year 3 will require future board approval. Funding is available in the sewer operating budget.

- Attachments:**
- 1. Resolution
  - 2. Barge Proposal

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>
Baker	—	—	—
Cooper	—	—	—
Duncan	—	—	—
George	—	—	—
Mayes	—	—	—
Phillips	—	—	—
Montgomery	—	—	—