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MEMORANDUM

Engineering Services

Date: October 1, 2025

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council

From: Ron Whitlatch, City Manager

Subject: Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Background

The Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (MJNHMP) has been updated for the 2025–2030 period in collaboration with participating cities and districts, including the City of Lebanon. Adoption of this Plan ensures continued eligibility for federal mitigation funding under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and FEMA regulations (44 CFR 201).

Lebanon staff, including the Community Development Director, Engineering Services Director, and Public Works Operations Manager, participated in the update process.

The Plan identifies natural hazards relevant to Lebanon, evaluates risks and vulnerabilities, and outlines mitigation strategies.

Key natural hazards identified for Lebanon include:

- **Flooding:** Willamette River and Santiam River flood risks impacting low-lying areas.
- **Wildfire and Smoke/Air Quality:** Impacts from regional wildfires, including poor air quality events.
- **Extreme Heat and Winter Storms:** Countywide concerns that affect Lebanon's vulnerable populations and infrastructure.
- **Earthquakes (Cascadia & Crustal Faults):** Potential for significant structural and infrastructure damage.
- **Drought and Dam Failure:** Regional water supply and dam safety issues that could indirectly impact Lebanon.

The City's addendum within the MJNHMP refines these risks at the local level and identifies actions Lebanon can take to mitigate them.

Adoption of the Linn County MJNHMP, including Lebanon's jurisdictional addendum, allows the City to:

- Maintain eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance).
- Support proactive planning for infrastructure resilience, emergency preparedness, and public safety.
- Coordinate with countywide partners in hazard mitigation efforts.

Mitigation strategies for Lebanon include:

- Improving stormwater infrastructure to reduce localized flooding.
- Enhancing public communication systems during severe weather or wildfire smoke events.
- Exploring opportunities for seismic retrofitting of critical facilities.
- Incorporating natural hazard planning into development review and capital improvement projects.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council adopt the 2025 Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, including the City of Lebanon addendum, by resolution.