



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Carrie Spencer, Municipal Services Inc.

CC: Stevie Cox, City Manager

DATE: September 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Water Management Ordinance Public Hearing

Summary: The City of Trinity has asked Municipal Services, Inc. (MSI) to update their stormwater and watershed ordinances. MSI reviewed current ordinances and determined that they needed a lot of work to bring them into current legal compliance, make them easier to follow, and set them up in a way that could be efficiently enforced by the stormwater administrator.

Background: MSI has created a new model for a local ordinance that regulates the numerous ways in which water and development are interconnected. The model combines stormwater, watershed, and floodplain regulations into a single Water Management Ordinance (WMO). A comprehensive water ordinance has several advantages:

- Addresses all aspects of the effect of development on water quantity and quality in one resource
- Creates a single regulatory document for City staff to follow and enforce
- Creates the new role: “Water Management Administrator”, combining the roles of stormwater administrator, watershed administrator, and floodplain administrator
- Calls attention to the importance of the control of water quantity and quality
- Creates a resource more easily read and understood by property owners and developers
- Eliminates redundancies between stormwater, watershed, and floodplain regulation

This ordinance is the first of its kind in the state of North Carolina. The innovative format consolidates regulations that are managed by separate branches of state environmental agencies, resulting in efficient access for local property owners and developers.

State approval is required for the City to use the ordinance. Our planners and City staff have been working closely with state agencies on the drafting and review of the ordinance. We have also worked closely with the City’s stormwater administrator, planning director, and engineer during the project.

Recommendation: The Planning Board has reviewed the ordinance and recommended your approval.