

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairman Arnett & Members of the Public Works Commission

From: Andrew Beyer, P.E.

Date: July 14, 2026

Subject: Review and take possible action: Phase I Street and Utility Program Design Services with Ruekert & Mielke – Hart Street Area

Background

In 2021, following a competitive consultant selection process, the City contracted with Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. (R&M) to complete the design for the Hart Street, S. 7th Street, S. 8th Street, S. 9th Street, and Station Street reconstruction project. The project was originally anticipated for construction in 2022/2023 and included replacement of aging water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, roadway, and sidewalk infrastructure.

As the design progressed, the City was made aware that flooding concerns within the project corridor could not be adequately addressed through improvements located solely within the public right-of-way. Additional evaluation identified the need for off-site drainage improvements to provide a long-term solution to flooding within the project area. As a result, the street and utility reconstruction project was placed on hold while the City evaluated and advanced the necessary flood mitigation improvements.

The flood mitigation project has since advanced to the point where completion of the street and utility design can resume. Completing the street & utility reconstruction design will position the City to bid and construct the project as funding becomes available.

Staff reviewed R&M's proposal to complete the remaining design work for the Hart Street, S. 7th Street, S. 8th Street, S. 9th Street, and Station Street reconstruction project, and found that continuing with R&M likely remains the most cost-effective and efficient approach. R&M is familiar with the project area, the previous design effort, and the project history, reducing the time and effort that would otherwise be required to transition the project to a new consultant.

Design Scope

To align with available funding and anticipated construction sequencing, the design effort has been separated into two phases. The railroad corridor serves as the logical dividing point between the two project phases.

Staff is recommending authorization to proceed with Phase I design services utilizing available 2026 budgeted funds.

Phase I includes the following project limits:

- Hart Street from S. Third Street to Randolph Street.
- Chenango Street from Hart Street to the railroad right-of-way.
- S. 8th Street from Hart Street to the north side of the railroad right-of-way.
- S. 9th Street from May Street to the north side of the railroad right-of-way.

Phase II (future) includes the following project limits:

- S. Seventh Street from Station Street to Western Avenue
- S. Eighth Street from the north side of the railroad right-of-way to Western Avenue
- S. Ninth Street from the north side of the railroad right-of-way to Clyman Street
- Station Street from S. Seventh Street to S. Ninth Street

A detailed breakdown of the consultant's proposed level of effort by task and funding source is included in the attached level of effort spreadsheet.

Financial Impact

Staff is recommending approval of Phase I design services at this time using funds available within the 2026 budgets. Funding for Phase II would be considered at a later date, subject to future budget approval. The flood mitigation project will be designed and bid as a separate standalone project.

The proposed Phase I funding allocation is:

Funding Source	Amount
Streets	\$17,724.50
Stormwater Utility	\$31,058.50
Water Utility	\$24,137.50
Wastewater Utility	\$18,452.50
Total:	\$91,373.00

Budget Goal

1. Create a community where all can feel safe and strive for economic success.
2. Encourage community growth by assessing opportunities, involving ALL stakeholders, environmental needs, modern code and policy priorities.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Public Works Commission recommend Common Council approval of the Phase I design services for the Hart Street Area Reconstruction Project.