



NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

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AFTER THE FLOOD – CITY OF ROCKPORT UNDERTAKING MAJOR REPAIRS

ROCKPORT, TX – Estimates from the major rain event in July range from 19 to 25 inches and caused considerable damage to roadways, businesses and neighborhoods throughout the City. Once emergency repairs were completed and the area began to dry out, the City's Public Works department launched a documentation process and developed a plan for restoration.

The three major components included drainage, potholes and sinkholes. Each was assessed for safety issues, severity, size, and potential causes, including the steps necessary to alleviate the issue.

Due to staffing and equipment restraints, as well as the need to provide normal, daily service, the City has contracted with outside vendors to speed up the process. A contract of \$124,000 has been let to fix sinkholes within the City. The contractor for street sweeping, who was selected earlier in the year, began work in mid-August to remove the silt and sediment that remain on the roadways throughout the city. Estimated cost for street sweeping is \$30,000.

Approximately \$93,000 has been allocated to an outside contractor, that has brought in trackhoes, bulldozers, and other equipment to dredge and clear out drainage ditches, swales, and other stormwater runoff paths. Engineers are working with the Public Works Department to evaluate the more complicated issues and determine best management practices and plans to identify costs, which could range from \$100,000 to several million dollars per project.

A contract for \$33,700 has been awarded to repair and regrade areas of Traylor Street. The annual street sealcoating program working with Aransas County is now underway in the Old Rockport/Downtown area. It is estimated to cost between \$150,000 - \$200,000.

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According to Public Works Director Mike Donoho, one of the biggest surprises coming out of the flooding disaster was the appearance of sinkholes. More than 30 sinkholes have been identified with the causes ranging from broken pipes to groundwater and oversaturation to dissolving materials. Repair on these issues may require additional time as repairs are completed and fill material is added, compacted, and allowed to settle to ensure stability before being topped with proper material.

Residents are asked to fill out a “fix it” form on the City’s web site (www.cityofrockport.com) if they notice a situation that the Public Works Department may not be aware of.