

**Open Work Session**  
**2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan**  
**June 21, 2016**

Mr. Dave Shipley, Director of Emergency Services, came before Council. Mr. Shipley said he would like to provide an overview of the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is an update to the FEMA approved 2011 plan that is currently in effect in the County. The County and its eight municipalities need and must adopt an approved FEMA Hazard Mitigation plan, which allows the County and the municipalities to seek reimbursement for allowed expenses during a declared federal emergency. The plan that is approved by FEMA allows the County to recoup 75% of the potential expenses as a result of responding to an emergency. The plan must be updated every five years. The 2016 plan has already been approved by FEMA. The purpose of the plan is to identify and implement hazard mitigation measures. Mr. Shipley said it takes a quite a while to put together the plan as the committee that is responsible for the plan was formed in January 2015 to update the 2011 plan. The members of the committee are representatives from all eight municipalities, officials from Public Works, Planning and Zoning, Health Department, police agencies, PRMC, fire departments and people from his office were also on the committee. The first action of the committee was to identify and prioritize hazards. The plan itself discusses six hazards, which he will mention as the primary ones, but then the plan discusses other hazards as well. The six highest hazards that were identified by the plan are (1) high winds (2) coastal flooding (3) coastal storms (4) hurricanes (5) tropical storms/Nor'easters and (6) winter storms. Mr. Shipley continued; he said Chapter 14 of the plan contains mitigation action items and rankings that include the new 2016 action items established by the counties and municipalities and by the committee, as well as the ongoing 2011 action items, as not everything was accomplished that was mentioned in the 2011 plan. The action items carry over from one plan to the next and each of the municipalities and counties are responsible for looking at the action items that they have proposed. If Council wants to find these items, they are in Chapter 14 and Appendix H of the plan. The mitigation actions were identified around six groups, (1) prevention (2) property protection (3) public education (4) awareness (5) natural resource protection and (6) emergency services instructional projects. There are a number of things mentioned in the plan for action items, and it would not be responsible of the group not to try identify where funding sources could come from. If Council looks at Appendix B in the existing plan, it identifies funding sources for mitigation problems, such as FEMA, the National Flood Insurance Program, Small Business Administration and Community Block Grants. Mr. Cannon said it looks like a lot of work went into the plan. Mr. Cannon said, on page 1-9, under Public Involvement, there is a paragraph highlighted that mentions specific dates that seems to be questionable. Mr. Dave Shipley said today's date would be one of the dates and the public hearing date will be the other date. Mr. Cannon said he just wanted to point out the highlighted paragraph so that he is aware that the dates need

to be filled in. Mr. Cannon asked, in the section that discusses critical public facilities and storm surge areas, should the Civic Center be included or is that for property that may be at risk. Mr. Shipley said they do their own modeling outside of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Civic Center is not in a storm surge area. The closest area is Civic Avenue where the Salisbury Rehab and Nursing Home is located. He said that area floods all the time and it is identified in the City of Salisbury's action plan to address that one particular spot as it impacts the first responders and, if they use the Civic Center as a potential shelter, it may cause problems. Mr. Cannon said he was not sure if that section in the plan was trying to suggest areas where people could go. Mr. Cannon then asked about the Sheriff's Office. He said they are always talking about how they are under water any time there is a hurricane. Their whole purpose in the Capital Improvement Program is that they are at risk, but he did not see the Sheriff's Office in the plan. Mr. Shipley said the Sheriff's Office is very much at risk for storm water runoff as the water goes down the hill and gets into their building. The business is also at a sustainable risk because of the wind rating of the building. Mr. Shipley said he does not recall if the Sheriff's Office is in the plan as there are so many action items, but he will check.

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John T. Cannon, President

  
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Ernest F. Dobbs, District 1

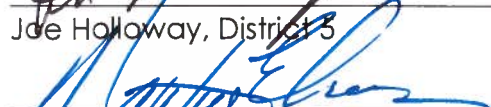
  
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