

City awards \$3.8M Front Street storm drain project to Tidewater Contractors

February 11, 2020



Crescent City awarded the task of replacing its aging storm drains on Front Street to Tidewater Contractors, the second-largest Public Works project the city has ever undertaken after the Waste Water Treatment Plant rehab in 2007.

City Manager Eric Wier explained at the Feb. 3 City Council meeting the project will target the storm drain on Front Street between B and G streets and long portions on C and F streets.

“The storm drain system during the real heavy storms creates a lot of issues, overflowing on 3rd Street and into residences that has dislocated a lot of families during these storm events,” Wier said. “The original system that was put in the 1950s was cast iron and needs to be replaced.”

The contract with Tidewater Contractors comes to \$3.833 million.

Wier said much of that will be paid from the \$4 million Community Development Block Grant it received. The City Council approved allocating another \$167,000 to the project from its water fund, leaving the city with a contingency fund of about \$426,000 according to Wier.

In addition to replacing the storm drains, the city approved Tidewater Contractors' \$50,000 alternative to also replace street lights and install additional conduits for receptacles and tree wells for a PA systems along Front Street.

Wier said this will move Front Street closer to the city's vision for the street's future.

"This is not to just build a storm drain project, but to put the street back to the way it is on the master plan — reducing it to two lanes and utilize existing asphalt through the building of a median strip to have diagonal parking along Front Street," Wier said.

Tidewater Contractors was the lowest of five bids city staff received. Wier said work is planned to begin April 26 with an expected completion date of February 2021.

He added there is a "hard" end date of June 30, 2021, as the CDBG funds must be expended by an expenditure deadline of July 31, 2021.