



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Earle M. Chesley P.E., General Services Director

**DATE:** December 19, 2022

**SUBJECT:** ARPA Grant Authorization and Process Evaluation Project Appropriation

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report authorizing the City Manager to complete application documents and accept approved grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant program administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). In addition, the Department requests the council appropriate the sum of \$100,000 including the acceptance of \$100,000 in ARPA grant funding to conduct a process evaluation at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### **Background**

The General Services Department (the Department) has been working with the NHDES since the spring of 2022 to secure ARPA grant funding for a variety of capital improvement projects (CIP) at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). In September 2022, the Department was notified that the NHDES had reserved \$100,000 in grant funding to complete a process evaluation for the Hall Street WWTP. In May 2022, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provided the WWTP with a new discharge permit. As part of the new permit the USEPA has required more stringent sampling and testing of the plant's effluent water quality. The proposed process evaluation will provide the city guidance to successfully achieve the more stringent requirements and provide guidance on current and future infrastructure needs for the facility. It is anticipated that the process evaluation will provide a roadmap for the WWTP to remain in compliance with its applicable permit requirements.

### **Discussion**

The Department has identified a significant need to evaluate the treatment process at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Plant as the facility works to maintain compliance under its new permit requirements. Through the NHDES ARPA grant program the city has an opportunity to

complete this essential project at no cost to the city's rate payers. For the reasons stated above it is the Department's recommendation that the City Council accept this report and associated resolution.