

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
JULY 21, 2026, BOARD MEETING**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
An Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Sole-Source Contract with Weaver Bailey Contractors for the emergency demolition of the Markham Street Pedestrian Bridge; to declare it impractical and unfeasible to bid and to declare an Emergency Submitted by: Public Works	√ Ordinance Resolution	Delphone Hubbard City Manager
SYNOPSIS	An Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Weaver Bailey Contractors for the emergency demolition of the Markham Street Pedestrian Bridge, to declare that competitive bidding is impractical and unfeasible due to an emergency and declare an emergency. On July 13, 2026, the Markham Street Pedestrian Bridge sustained significant structural damage when it was struck by a truck owned and operated by Arkansas Mini Dumpsters, LLC. The impact displaced the bridge span, sheared the steel anchor bolts, and displaced the elastomeric bearings supporting the structure. On July 14, 2026, the City retained Michael Baker International to perform an emergency structural assessment. Based upon its visual inspection, the engineering consultant concluded that the damage to the bridge's structural steel members and reinforced concrete deck rendered the structure unsafe and recommended immediate demolition to eliminate an imminent threat to public health, safety, and welfare.	

**SYNOPSIS
CONTINUED**

Although the circumstances constituted an emergency, the Department of Public Works sought pricing from qualified bridge contractors experienced in bridge demolition. On July 16, 2026, written proposals were requested from multiple contractors, and the City received three responsive proposals. Following evaluation of the proposals, Weaver Bailey Contractors was determined to be the most qualified contractor capable of performing the emergency demolition in the required timeframe.

The proposed ordinance authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract with Weaver Bailey Contractors in an amount not to exceed \$102,185.00, including a twenty percent (20%) contingency, and declares an emergency so that demolition activities may proceed without delay.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the project is from the 3/8 Cent Capital Improvement Sales and Compensating Use Tax Funds and 2018 Capital Improvement Bonds as authorized by Resolution 14,803. Account Activity 326409 TS40A07.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Resolution.

BACKGROUND

The Markham Street Pedestrian Bridge provides pedestrian access across Markham Street and is an important component of the City's pedestrian transportation network.

On July 13, 2026, a commercial truck impacted the bridge, causing catastrophic structural damage that compromised the bridge's load-carrying capacity and structural integrity. The collision displaced the bridge span, sheared critical steel anchor bolts, and displaced the elastomeric bearing assemblies supporting the structure.

Recognizing the immediate public safety concerns, the City retained Michael Baker International on July 14, 2026, to conduct an emergency structural evaluation. The consultant determined that the extent of the structural damage created an unsafe condition requiring immediate demolition of the bridge to protect motorists, pedestrians, emergency responders, and surrounding infrastructure.

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

While Arkansas law permits the waiver of competitive bidding during emergencies, the Department of Public Works nevertheless solicited written proposals from multiple experienced bridge contractors to ensure the City received competitive pricing and qualified services. Three proposals were received, reviewed, and evaluated based upon contractor qualifications, bridge demolition experience, responsiveness, availability, and ability to immediately perform the work.

Weaver Bailey Contractors was determined to provide the best value and possess the resources necessary to safely complete the emergency demolition within the required timeframe.

Because the bridge presents an immediate hazard to the traveling public, delay associated with traditional procurement procedures would unnecessarily increase the risk to public safety. Accordingly, the proposed ordinance declares competitive bidding impractical and unfeasible under the emergency circumstances, authorizes execution of the demolition contract, and declares an emergency so the ordinance becomes effective immediately upon passage.