



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending January 28, 2011

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1. Mayor McLean and I attended the NC Eastern Municipal Power Agency meeting in Wilson on Wednesday. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed merger of Duke Energy and Progress Energy. Electricities Chief Executive Officer Graham Edwards has appointed the Board Members from the Eastern Agency and Agency Number 1 to serve on an evaluation team. In addition, Electricities has hired several consultants to aid in the evaluation process. The additional costs associated with this process will be absorbed in the existing Power Agency budget. It will be several months before we will know what effect the merger will have on our wholesale electric rates. Mayor McLean spoke about the need to receive some benefit because of the merger. Also during the meeting, a presentation about the state's weatherization program was given. Elizabeth City's weatherization program is considered one of the leading programs in the state and was used as an example of how to successfully help our citizens.
2. The City has been approached by The NRP Group from Cleveland, Ohio to support a Community Development Block Grant tax credit application for 84 multi-family units. The location of these proposed units is a seven acre tract located between the Farm Fresh complex and Applebee's. This property is located within the 100 year floodplain of the Knobbs Creek Drainage Basin and would have approximately three feet of fill added to parts of the property in order to make it a viable site. This has been a platted lot for over 30 years. Staff is in the process of reviewing the original file to make a determination of any vested rights that may exist. Staff has concerns that filling this area may exacerbate the flooding in Oxford Heights. Before any determination can be made, staff must look at the drainage calculations and apply the 25 year pre- and post-storm design standards to this parcel.

3. This week, plans and specifications were completed and released for construction bidding for the utility reconstruction work related to the Elizabeth Street project (NCDOT Project U-4438.). The planned opening of construction bids for Project One, which is the work south of Elizabeth Street, will be held on February 25th; and construction bids for Project Two, which is all the utility work north of Elizabeth Street, will be opened on March 1st. There will be a mandatory preconstruction meeting for all contractors wanting to bid on either contract one or contract two on February 10th. In the design process, City staff and the engineers made a decision not to replace the traffic signal at the intersection of Poindexter Street and Colonial Avenue. The traffic signal did not meet the minimum warrants to have a signalized intersection; and in fact, was the only City maintained traffic signal in the City. In lieu of the traffic signal, stop signs will be erected for southbound traffic on Poindexter Street and eastbound traffic on Colonial Avenue. A copy of the bid advertisement for Contract One and Contract Two is available on the homepage of the City's website (www.cityofec.com).
4. Today, there was a reported failure of the gravity sewer in the 1500 block of Crescent Drive. City crews have set up by-pass pump for tonight and we anticipate that a point repair will be completed on the sewer main tomorrow. The Crescent Drive sewer has been identified as a main that has to be totally replaced and repaired shortly; however, at this point it was financially expedient to do a point repair rather than a manhole to manhole repair.
5. The NC League of Municipalities Wellness Coordinator, Gerald Galloway, will be returning with his staff on February 7th and 8th to begin employee wellness assessments for all employees. These assessments will continue during the week of February 14th and will be held at the PAL Center on Elizabeth Street. All employees will be participating in this process.
6. The Elizabeth City Police Athletic League (PAL) and Camden Volleyball have teamed up to host two local tournaments with proceeds benefiting PAL. The Carolina Regional 17 and Under tournament will be held on February 12th and the 14 and Under tournament will be held on February 19th at the PAL Gym on Elizabeth Street. Ten to fifteen teams from all over the state will be competing in each tournament. Games start at 9 a.m. and will run all day. Admission is free and concessions will be available.
7. Upcoming Event Reminders:

- Joint City/County meeting on Monday, January 31, 2011 at the K. E. White Graduate Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- "Meet and Greet" with Congressman Butterfield on Tuesday, February 1 at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers.
- Public Information Meeting on the Elizabeth Street Reconstruction Project, Tuesday, February 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Arts of the Albemarle facility on Main Street.

RCO/vdw