



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending March 11, 2011

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1. City staff has been working with CEI, the low bidder on the electrical line relocation for the Elizabeth Street Reconstruction Project, to develop a timeline for their work. CEI will start construction on March 29, 2011. A preconstruction conference will also be held on March 29 at 9 a.m. at City Hall. CEI and their boring subcontractor will be mobilizing on March 28. The overhead crew will begin work on March 29. The river bore will likely start on April 4. Their bore pit will be located near Burgess Street and Poindexter Street. This phase of the project should take approximately one week. There will be some temporary lane closures on Elizabeth Street by CEI, but no major disruptions should take place. All materials for the job have been received by the City's purchasing department.
2. Last night, I attended the North Carolina Utility Commission's public hearing on Atlantic Wind, LLC's application for a 300 megawatt Desert Wind Power Project. The hearing was held to gather local comments on their application. The technology public hearing will be held on April 5, 2011 in Raleigh. Representatives from the Northeast Partnership provided testimony on the economic impact of such a project on the region. Tim Ivey, from the Department of Commerce, relayed to Commission representatives their study of the impact of such a project on the region and state. Although wind farms have been constructed in many states, there has not been a project in North Carolina. Atlantic Wind, LLC is not a public utility, but a generator of power. The Commission's jurisdiction at this time is limited to their explanation for a Public Convenience and Necessity Permit. If the project is approved and receives all necessary permits, we could see construction begin before the end of the year.
3. The City has been approached by a solar company to install a one megawatt solar farm near the Water Treatment Plant. The site under consideration is the former landfill site, which has been closed for several decades. The city attorney is in the process of reviewing a proposed lease

agreement. The company finds the site attractive due to its close proximity to the City/Dominion Power electrical interconnection. I have had preliminary discussions with the company's representatives about the cost of power from the solar farm and whether it would be cost effective to produce the power and renewable energy credits to meet the City's needs. If the power is cost effective, the City will need to explore our existing contract with the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency to see if we could purchase it. The company is in the process of performing their economic analysis on the site and arranging financing for the project.

4. On Thursday, Dennis Gordon and I met with two representatives with the Environmental Defense Fund. EDF is a United States-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group. The group is known for its work on issues including global warming, ecosystem restoration, oceans, and human health. It is nonpartisan, and its work often advocates market-based solutions to environmental problems. The EDF Climate Corps Program places trained M.B.A., Master of Public Policy, and Master of Environmental Management fellows into businesses, universities, and local government offices across the country to identify and analyze energy efficient investments that can reduce cost and energy use. The fellow's salary is paid directly by the EDF. For ten to twelve weeks, the fellow works with city officials to identify and develop energy efficiency strategies. Two of the Elizabeth City's facilities were toured by the representatives, Knobbs Creek Recreation Facility and the Waste Treatment Plant, to assess potential energy efficiency projects. The fellow will work under the general direction of Dennis Gordon, but will also work closely with Paul Fredette and Bobbi White on proposed energy improvements to their facilities. Once the improvements have been identified, the fellow will then help the City identify grant funding sources to pay for the improvements.
5. City staff had a monthly construction meeting with English Construction regarding the status of the construction of the new Charles Creek Bridge. The progress on this project continues as it has been - on schedule and progressing with minimum problems. The bridge structure is very near completion. There are a couple of bridge rail sections that have yet to be constructed and both approaches have to be graded, the curb and gutter section completed and then the project area has to be paved. Pending the Council's decision about fixing the Water Street/Shepard Street intersection, English will hold back on the final asphalt paving so that both projects can be paved at the same time. Again, I would like to thank everyone for staying out of the construction area for the past six months. It's looking really tempting now, but we ask that you wait about another 30 to 45 days before getting out on the new bridge.

6. Many of the City's recent construction bids have not been opened or accepted by the City for funding source reasons, legal issues or the fact that there were not three bids submitted at the first scheduled opening. March 21, 2011 is the next scheduled construction bid opening. In fact, we plan to open three construction bids that day. They are for the cleaning and repair of the raw water tank at the Water Treatment Plant at 2 p.m.; Contract #2 for the Elizabeth Street (NCDOT TIP U-4438) Utility Relocation Project south of Elizabeth Street at 3 p.m.; and finally, Contract #1 for the U-4438 Project utility relocation (Pearl Street Pump Station) at 3:30 p.m. If all goes as expected, all three projects will be presented to the City Council for consideration at their meeting on March 28, 2011.
7. On Wednesday evening this week, the Mayor's Storm Water Task Force met again to review a preliminary list of discussion points that will be included in the draft report to the City Council sometime near mid-May. The discussion points include: completing the inventory of the storm water system; preparing a glossary of terms for storm water discussions in Elizabeth City; developing and refining a design guideline for the storm water infrastructure; a method of prioritizing maintenance and capital improvements for the system; and, the need to develop a better public relations campaign and image for the City relative to storm water related issues. The Storm Water Task Force meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month and will now be focusing on details for the preparation of the draft report to City Council.
8. On March 5, the City of Elizabeth City Electric Department had a scheduled outage for the Elizabeth City State University main campus. During this outage, the electric department replaced the City's twenty year old switch gear cabinet located at the City's generator building and upgraded the underground primary lines, which feed the main campus. This outage to the campus lasted approximately seven hours. These upgrades will improve the reliability of the electrical feed to the campus.
9. The Recreation Advisory Board held their monthly meeting on March 10, 2011 at the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Senior Center. I spoke about the possibility of the City building a Splash/Spray Park in Elizabeth City. There are three possible sites that the City is considering: the corner back lot of the Boys and Girls Club property along Corsair Circle and Catalina Avenue, the South Park Athletic Complex, and finally, the back lot of the old Elizabeth City Middle School/PAL Gym along Pearl Street. The Recreation Advisory Board, as well as the Youth Task Force, prefers the Boys and Girls Club site. The City will have to purchase this property from the Boys and Girls Club. The capital construction cost will be a City expense; however, the operating expenses will be a joint City/County expense through the Parks and Recreation Department

budget. It is estimated that the cost to build the splash/spray pad will be between \$150,000 and \$200,000. To construct a bath house-restroom/concession area will cost another \$150,000. This is just one project, which I will try to incorporate into the fiscal year 2011-2012 budget. The cost to purchase the property has not been determined at this time. Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Linwood Williams and School Board Chairman Mark Small also attended the meeting and discussed the possibilities of opening school facilities and having a Joint Use Agreement with the Parks and Recreation Department. Bobbi White will meet with Dr. Williams and Mr. Small on March 18, 2011 to work on the details of this proposed agreement.

10. The Christmas tree at Waterfront Park was removed this past week. Last year, this tree was found to be dead by the arborist who was hired by the Urban Forestry Commission to document trees located throughout the Historic District and in the local parks. When the tree was planted, cables were placed around the trunk to keep the tree in an upright position. Unfortunately, these cables were never removed and the tree was dead from the cables up. A new tree was planted by the Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff and the old tree was removed by the Electric Department staff. The new tree should grow and become as large as the old tree within a few years.
11. On Thursday, March 17, Ms. Nikki Clark with Leftfield Pictures (New York, New York) will be in Elizabeth City filming a docu-drama in several of our city parks and playgrounds. The docu-drama will feature two local children and their families at play. The film will center on conflict resolution within families and helping families to heal with the aid of a therapist. Leftfield is scheduled to shoot from noon until 6:00 p.m. at Charles Creek Park, River Road Soccer Complex, South Park playground, and the Fun Junktion playground.

12. Upcoming Event Reminders:

- City Council Personnel Committee meeting, Monday, March 14 at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers
- City Council regular meeting, Monday, March 14 at 7 p.m.
- Mayor's Redistricting Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 16 at 5 p.m. at the Public Works Facility on Pritchard Street.

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