

THE CITY OF  
**ELIZABETH CITY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors  
**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending May 6, 2011  
**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. At long last, we will hold the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly constructed Charles Creek Bridge on Monday morning, May 9 at 9 a.m. The replacement of this bridge has had a long history dating back to 1997 when the concept of replacing the bridge with a Federal Highway Administration Grant, with 20% matching funds from the City, was conceived. A Municipal Agreement between the City of Elizabeth City and the North Carolina Department of Transportation was executed in February 1998. In December 1998, the City awarded a Phase I engineering contact to Hazen and Sawyer for the planning studies, including the 4(f) Evaluation and Categorical Exclusion. In October 2006, the City solicited proposals for Phase II engineering for preliminary and final design services. From the nine consulting firms submitting proposals, URS Corporation-NC was selected in April 2007. From three bids received, the City Council authorized a construction contract on March 22, 2010 with English Construction Company, Inc. for the reconstruction of the bridge in the amount of \$1,277,000, with a completion date within 300 consecutive calendar days thereafter. The total project cost including design, engineering, construction, inspection and easement acquisition is approximately \$1.5 million. This historic bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The previous five-span bridge was completed in 1940, replacing a wooden draw bridge. It consisted of a concrete deck supported by timber piers and was approximately 140 feet in length and 30 feet in width. The reconstructed bridge is a six-span structure that is 146 feet in length and 45.3 feet in width. It consists of a concrete deck supported by concrete piers. I have received many compliments on the new bridge and its design. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the construction of the bridge for a job well done. I would also like to thank City staff members for their planning and work on the ribbon cutting ceremony.

2. This week, during the monthly meeting of the North Carolina Board of Transportation, the commissioners approved an appropriation of \$100,000 to assist Elizabeth City with the proposed Water Street Intersection Improvement Project, subject to receiving a resolution from the City Council. During Monday's Council meeting, the City Council will be asked to approve the resolution requesting that NCDOT cost share the proposed project with the City. Following affirmative action on the resolution by the City Council, the City will receive the draft of a proposed municipal agreement granting the City \$100,000 for the project. During the May 23, 2011 meeting, the Council will be asked to approve a resolution authorizing execution of the Municipal Agreement, which will allow the City to award a construction contract for the intersection improvement project for which the cost will be shared between the City and the State.
3. A preliminary plan for the Route 17 South Sidewalk Project, which extends the sidewalk from Providence Road to Applebee's Restaurant, has been submitted to the City and NCDOT for review and approval. Both the City and the State have approved the concept and the alignment of the sidewalk. We expect that final plans should be completed in the next three to four weeks.
4. We expect that the final construction contract documents for utility improvements associated with the Elizabeth Street Reconstruction Project (NCDOT TIP U4438) will be executed next week and the contractor will be given a Notice to Proceed. Based on pre-construction meetings, we expect the contractor to mobilize for the project on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. During the first week of the project, Water Street, from Elizabeth Street thru Colonial Avenue, will be closed to thru-traffic and a pair of sewer manholes will be set in the Colonial Avenue/Water Street intersection. This work has been coordinated with NC Potato Festival organizers to be sure that construction does not interfere with plans for the festival.
5. The Elizabeth City Fire Department conducted Live Fire Burn Training at 112 Lowry Street this week. This training is very important in maintaining the skill sets needed by our fire fighters to assure that we have quality personnel responding to structure fires within the City of Elizabeth City. Concentration was given toward working with our new personnel to help them gain experience and knowledge in fire behavior and extinguishment of interior structural fires. Twenty-two personnel from the fire department participated in this training, which lasted for six hours. Pasquotank-Camden EMS provided stand-by assistance with an ambulance and two personnel.

6. The South Park facility is coming along very well. Barnhill Contracting Company has completed all the paving and the parking lots will be striped on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Barnhill has also completed the grading of the ball fields and will be doing touch-up work next week. The irrigation of the ball fields has been completed and the second phase of irrigation will be completed by Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Albemarle Fence Company will start setting all the fence poles on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Alan Mason will begin building the score tables on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Sod and sprigging will begin by the first week in June, depending on the weather. The concession stand and restroom facility is 90% complete. The picnic shelter will be completed on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. The entrance sign to the park has been designed and is awaiting approval by the Recreation Advisory Board on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. All the scoreboards have been ordered and should arrive in mid-June.
  
7. Last weekend, the fire department was testing their dry hydrant at the foot of Main Street located at Moth Boat Park when they discovered a cave-in around the concrete pad surrounding the hydrant. On Tuesday, Chief Larry Mackey, Assistant Chief Michael Cartwright, Public Works Superintendent Paul Williams, Superintendent of Parks Jeffrey Simpson, Superintendent of Athletic Complexes Jeff Simpson, and Parks and Recreation Director Bobbi White met at the park to assess this situation. It looks as if the left side of the park has been undermined. Looking into the hole beside the hydrant, you can see to the deck and the bulkhead. There is some water under the deck to the right side of the park along a drain line that comes from the street. The Parks and Recreation Department has been fighting these cave-in situations for several years. However, now it looks as if there is more going on than just a hole occurring every now and then. In order to determine the cause of the problem, Bobbi White has contacted Crofton Diving Corporation from Portsmouth, Virginia and their divers will be in town on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to examine the bulkhead and around the dry hydrant pipe that goes through the bulkhead. This assessment will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to determine what the problem is and how to correct the situation.
  
8. The Downtown Waterfront Market opens tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the 2011 season. There will be a ribbon cutting held at 9:15 a.m. Thirty-seven booths will be selling all types of fresh produce, baked goods and arts and crafts. Wear your Kentucky Derby hat in honor of the race tomorrow!

9. Upcoming Event Reminders:

- Charles Creek Bridge Ribbon Cutting, Monday, May 9 at 9 a.m.
- Council Personnel Committee Meeting, Monday, May 9 at 10 a.m.
- City Council Regular Monthly Meeting, Monday, May 9 at 7 p.m.
- Historic Preservation Commission Monthly Meeting, Thursday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m.

RCO/vdw