



TO: Mayor and City Councilors
FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
REF: FYI ~ Week Ending May 27, 2011
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1. I was saddened this week to learn of the passing of our former mayor, Senator Melvin Daniels. Since coming to Elizabeth City in 2003, I have had an opportunity to interact with Senator Daniels on many occasions, especially during the development of the Aviation Park. I found him to be a true Southern gentleman. He was always willing to provide insight into complicated aviation matters and was a tremendous help with the project. Our community will certainly miss Senator Daniels. He was a dedicated public servant to Elizabeth City and North Carolina.
2. City staff has received the bridge plans for the replacement of the bridge over Knobbs Creek on Church Street Extended (NCDOT Project Number B-4922). The bridge is scheduled to be replaced beginning September 2012. The state has designed a bridge which is 30.6 feet wide and 68.14 feet long. The total project area is 612 feet. The bridge has been designed to accommodate two 11 foot wide travel lanes with 4 foot, 3 inch shoulders on both sides of the travel lanes. The existing bridge is 24 feet wide. The increased width should provide additional room for bikers. NCDOT estimates 3,150 trips per day crossing the bridge in 2012, with an increased volume of traffic in 2032 of 3,800 vehicles per day. Paul Fredette is in the process of providing comments to NCDOT on their design.
3. **Weekly Update on Elizabeth Street Utility Relocation (NCDOT TIP U-4438)** – During this past week, the contractor completed the construction of three new sanitary sewer manholes at the intersection of Water Street and Colonial Avenue. Also, in preparation for a pipe bore, brick and cobblestone pavers were removed from the intersection of Poindexter Street and Colonial Avenue. They also started to remove the brick pavers in the alley between Logan Raye's and Thumpers. Starting today and thru the three day holiday weekend, a specialty sub-contractor

will be working to complete a pilot bore in preparation for the jacking of a pipe casing under Colonial Avenue from Poindexter Street to Water Street. Next week, the contractors will be removing the rest of the pavement and brick pavers on the north side of Colonial Avenue, as well as removing the north side sidewalk (between Water and Poindexter Street); all in preparation to open dig a trench to bury a 24 inch sewer force main and a water main. To accommodate the continuation in the first phase of work, we expect the street closures to be the same as they are currently for the next six weeks. The contractors have been asked to tighten up their work and storage areas within the work site and not to take advantage of the closed streets to expand their storage area. We thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation as we move forward with this major infrastructure project that will not only upgrade the underground utilities but will give Elizabeth City Downtown new streets and sidewalks in the project area.

4. On Tuesday, May 24, 2011, staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee. We were advised that work on the next NCDOT Transportation Improvement Plan is now at the beginning. The first step is for all regional agencies to present a list of projects that they would like to have included on the state TIP. The regional agency has also been asked to rank these projects. This year, the project ranking will be different than in past years. The regional agency has a total of 1,300 points to assign to all of the projects (i.e. 1,300 points to one project or 130 each for ten projects or any combination thereof). The Albemarle RPO member agencies were asked to submit their project lists by July 13, 2011. Ranking of the projects will take place by the end of September before submittal of the regional plan to NCDOT. It was strongly suggested that as many member agencies as possible complete a bike and pedestrian plan for their community, as the NCDOT system offers bonus points to projects that are in communities that have a Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Lloyd Griffin, chairman of the Transportation Advisory Committee, encouraged all communities in our region to prepare a resolution to send to our legislators in opposition to increasing fees for the ferry boats in our area because of the impact it would have on the local economy.
5. This week, City staff met with County staff to discuss implementation of the City/County water purchase agreement. As we know, the City is obligated to purchase 250,000 gallons of water per day from the County as soon as the new RO water plant is on line and tested. The discussion centered on where the City can draw water within the community, what has to be done to effect those connections and what the cost might be to build those connections. The County will need to revise the distribution

model for their water system now that the primary water supply will be from the RO plant north of their system versus the Weeksville plant south of the distribution system. We discussed the need to create a model that included both the City and County distribution system on the same database in order that questions of interconnection can be evaluated.

6. Progress on the cleaning and repair of the raw water reservoir at the water plant is continuing. This week, work was completed on a bypass of the three million gallon raw water reservoir to a temporary 800,000 gallon tank. Over the holiday weekend, the plant operators will begin the drawdown of the large reservoir that has to be emptied to be cleaned and repaired. We hope to draw down the tank by about 10 feet while blending the water in that tank with the water in the new raw water reservoir. Next week, we will complete the drawdown of the large tank as low as we can go without affecting the color or turbidity in the water. At that point, the contractors will be back to empty, clean and repair the tank before putting it back in service. We expect this work will take three to five weeks.
7. A building permit was issued this week for the long anticipated Chick-fil-A restaurant. City staff has been working with the developer and has received numerous inquiries from the public about this project since its proposal early last year. The restaurant will be located at 1706 W. Ehringhaus Street beside the Walgreens Pharmacy. The project will consist of a 4,596 square foot building with 70 parking spaces and seating for 138 people. There will also be access to the restaurant from Rum Quarter Road off of Halstead Boulevard in addition to the Ehringhaus Street driveway.
8. Last week, Sherbert Birdsall and I met with the City's Workers' Compensation carrier, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, to look at the City's Workers' Compensation losses over the last five years. During that period of time, the police department reported 74 claims with a total value of \$345,997, or an average claim of \$4,675. Thirty-two claims were filed by the public works department valued at \$194,214 or \$6,069 per claim. The City's overall Workers' Compensation loss ratio is 80.30%. Unfortunately, the City's experience modifier will be increased from 1.20 to 1.33. This equates to a \$63,817 increase in our premium.
9. Plans are now complete for the City's Memorial Day observance, which will be held on Monday, May 30 at 9 a.m. at Mariners' Wharf Park. The ceremony will include remarks by Mayor McLean and Mayor Pro Tem Hummer and a wreath laying by the City Council, the police department and the fire department. The National Anthem and Taps will be played by

Douglas Jackson of the ECSU Music Department and recognition of all branches of military service will be made. The public is cordially invited to attend.

10. All City offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. Monday's garbage and recycling route will be collected on Tuesday, May 31.

11. Upcoming Event Reminders:

- Joint City Council/County Commissioner meeting on Tuesday, May 31 in the Maguire Theater at Arts of the Albemarle beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Business After Hours hosted by A. R. Chesson Construction Co., Inc. on Thursday, June 2 from 5 – 7 p.m., 138 Rich Boulevard. Please RSVP by calling the Chamber at 335-4365 by Tuesday, May 31 if you plan to attend.
- The Chamber-sponsored Harbor Nights celebration will be held at Mariners' Wharf Park on Friday, June 3 from 6 – 9 p.m. This family-centered event will feature food and fun, with music provided by Bobby Plough & Friends. First Friday Art Walk will also be held on June 3 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

RCO/vdw