



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending July 15, 2011

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1. City staff has successfully appealed a determination made by CIA (formerly DCA) that prohibited the City from advertising for Contract III of the Elizabeth Street project (improvements to Pearl and North Road Streets) until after receipt of the Request for Release of Funds from them. Staff now anticipates being able to advertise around August 1 with a bid opening occurring after August 22, 2011 (or after we have received the release of funds notification from CIA). I am hoping to have the Council award the contract during your September 12, 2011 meeting, with construction beginning shortly thereafter. The Pearl Street segment of the project needs to be completed before the end of the year.
2. George Raper and Sons continues to make progress on the relocation of utilities associated with Contracts I and II of the Elizabeth Street utility relocation project. They have completed installing the water main up Colonial Avenue for Phase I of Contract I. They still need to install the fire hydrants and services off the main. In the process of installing the main, the contractor uncovered a cross (main connection), which had been converted to a tee by a plug in one end of the cross. City staff has recently come across several of these modifications. City staff assisted the contractor by installing a line stop, which limited the inconvenience to the businesses affected by the break. The contractor has completed sanitary sewer in the alley between Thumpers and Logan Rayes along with the water main. Services have not yet been connected to the new main. The contractor continues to work on opening Water Street back up, which should occur around August 9. They contractor has provided the City with his work schedule for Phase I of Contract II, which staff will be placing on our web site to provide information on the progress to our citizens. Curb and gutter will be poured today or tomorrow on the west side of Poindexter in front of the former Carolina Grill. Staff is working with the contractor and Hyman and Robey to address drainage issues in

the alleyway between Arts of the Albemarle and the Carolina Theater. Several options are being considered. The contractor continues to work on constructing the pump station on Pearl Street. They should begin pouring concrete on August 3, 2011. City staff continues to work closely with the contractor to insure as little inconvenience as possible to the adjacent property owners.

3. Pasquotank County now utilizes DeltAlert as its county-to-resident notification system. With this service, Emergency Management can send personalized voice messages to residents and businesses within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive emergency situations. The DeltAlert service will be used to supplement our current communication plans and augment public safety/first responder services. For residents, typically home phone numbers are already in the database; however, we encourage citizens to provide their cell phone number and/or additional contact information for priority calling. In most cases, we will be sending calls to only one phone number; therefore, contact information should be prioritized based on the number that would be most successful in getting the message to you quickly. We also know that personal information is important, therefore, we will not share it with anyone. If you would like to provide additional contact information, click the DeltAlert image on the homepage of the City's website (www.cityofec.com) to sign up.
4. The Elizabeth City Fire Department will be sponsoring a "Back to School-Fill the Fire Truck with School Supplies" campaign on August 5th and 6th. On August 5th, personnel will be staged in the Office Max parking lot from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. On August 6th, personnel will be staged at Wal-Mart from 9:30 a.m. until later that evening with the same agenda of collecting school supplies for our area schools. Please spread the word and help us "fill the fire truck" with much needed school supplies to help the students in our area. Donations can also be made at other times at the Fire Administrative Offices at 304 E. Colonial Avenue, or either of the fire stations; 410 Harney Street and 904 Halstead Boulevard. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call Fire & Life Safety Educator Dena Richardson at 338-3913, ext. 309.
5. Yesterday, I executed and returned a Bill of Sale between the City of Elizabeth City and Alltel Communications (Verizon Wireless). Once this agreement is complete, the City will receive from Verizon, without cost, the 10' x 14' x 9' concrete building and its associated equipment that is located inside the Pool Street water tower compound. Verizon is abandoning the building due to its consolidation of Verizon/Alltel equipment. I have received indications of interest from several City departments for use of the building.

6. The City received correspondence this week from the Public Water Supply Section of NCDENR regarding the City's water system improvements at the well field. Our new wells 13, 14, 15 and 16 have now met all requirements and have received final approval.
7. The wayfinding signs have been delivered to the City's warehouse. Public Works Department staff and ECDI Director Rebecca Cross have marked the locations for the new signs around downtown. Once we have the encroachment agreements in place with NCDOT, we will be able to schedule installation of the signs, except for the ones for Elizabeth Street, which will be installed after the construction is complete.
8. I read an interesting article in the Virginian Pilot this week regarding the City of Virginia Beach's work on its redistricting plan. Although I realize that Virginia Beach is much larger than Elizabeth City, I found it interesting that Beach officials chose to hire an election expert for \$200,000 to assist with their redistricting process. I am proud of the work that our Planning and GIS Department staff members did to assist the Mayor's Redistricting Committee and the Council during our redistricting process. This shows the hidden value we have in our City staff!
9. City staff is working on a proposal to offer video streaming of City Council meetings and will be meeting next week with a vendor to determine the exact technical requirements needed. Streaming video is content sent in compressed form over the Internet and displayed by the viewer in real time. With streaming video, the user does not have to wait to download a file to play it. Instead, the media is sent in a continuous stream of data and is played as it arrives. By offering this service, citizens will be able to view Council meetings using their home computers. I will keep the Council informed as this project moves forward.
10. Upcoming Event Reminders:
 - 4th Ward Community Meeting hosted by Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence and Councilman Walton on Monday, July 18 at 7 p.m. at St. James A.M.E. Zion Church, 708 Park Street

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