



TO: Mayor and City Councilors
FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
REF: FYI ~ Week Ending July 29, 2011
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1. Tonight's Kids Flix movie showing begins at 8:30 p.m. at Mariners' Wharf Park. The featured film is "An American Tail," which is an animated movie. Come out and enjoy the breeze off the river! Concessions will be available.
2. The contractors are now working on the sidewalks, road surfaces and brick paving in the alleys for the Elizabeth Street Utility Relocation Project. The contractor expects to be able to open Water Street to traffic by August 12th and to open the sections of Colonial Avenue and Poindexter Street that are now under construction by the middle of the following week. About August 17th, work will begin on Phase II of Contract 2. Phase II will include Poindexter Street from Colonial Avenue northerly to Elizabeth Street; Colonial Avenue from Poindexter Street westerly thru McMorrine Street and McMorrine Street from Main Street to Elizabeth Street. Please be aware of the detour signs. In particular the easterly end of Colonial Avenue will be open to one-way traffic from Water Street to Poindexter Street. This is in the opposite direction that we are accustomed to! This traffic movement will be well marked during Phase II of the construction and will revert to normal traffic flow after Phase II is completed. Again we thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation as we make these improvements to our downtown.
3. On Thursday this week, City staff and I attended a pre-construction meeting of NCDOT and Archer Western, the general contractor for the Elizabeth Street and bridge replacement project. It is Archer Western's plan to mobilize during the month of August and to set up the traffic control signs to divert both east and westbound traffic over the northerly bridge, which now carries only west bound traffic. They plan to begin taking down the eastbound bridge over the Pasquotank River before the end of August. The construction plan also calls for the construction of the

drainage ditches and large culverts north of Elizabeth Street early this fall, which will require close coordination with the City's Contract 3 for utility relocation on the north side of Elizabeth Street. During the meeting, there was a fair amount of discussion about the storm water pump station that will be rebuilt at the corner of Water and Elizabeth Streets, and the contractor's plan to use the Elizabeth City sewer collection system as an alternative for dewatering the construction site while working on Elizabeth Street. Many of the details to be coordinated with Elizabeth City will be discussed in a less formal setting at the Archer Western field office on Elizabeth Street during the next two weeks. The one piece of really good news is that the contractor has projected a completion date for all of the work by June 1, 2015, some six months sooner than provided for in the NCDOT contracts.

4. Mayor McLean and I attended the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency meeting on July 27, 2011. The power plants that the City jointly owns are working at 100% of availability. Our primary source of power continues to be our nuclear plants, Brunswick Units 1 and 2 and Harris. The coal plants are operating as needed for economic dispatch. The Agency continues to negotiate an extension of the Supplemental Load Agreement for the years 2018 – 2031 with Progress Energy. We anticipate having a new agreement in place by October. The North Carolina Utilities Commission issued an order, which will not allow the City to utilize any of our existing load management savings to meet our renewable energy requirements under Senate Bill 3. This ruling will cost NCEMPA approximately \$20 million for the years 2012-2020. Finally, we received an update on the Agency's investment philosophy. The Agency has over \$700 million in investments; however, most of those funds cannot be used due to requirements for bond reserves and decommissioning costs of the nuclear plants.
5. Today was Mohammad Sayemuzzaman's last day with the City. Mohammad has completed his ten-week fellowship with us, which was underwritten by the Environmental Defense Fund. During his fellowship, I requested that he look at three City facilities for energy savings: the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Knobbs Creek Recreation Center and the Midgett Building. We met today to discuss his findings. The greatest savings the City can obtain is through fixing the Programmable Logic Control System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The system was installed in 1997, but has not worked since 2000. At the time the plant was built, the "George System" was state of the art and is still very functional. To fix the George System will cost \$33,500; however, the savings in electricity will be \$39,316 per year or \$196,580 over a five year period. With a payback of .85 year, I have authorized Paul Fredette to

purchase the equipment to fix the system. There is also savings by installing occupancy sensors in all buildings at the plant. This will cost approximately \$1,350, but will save \$5,180 per year. I have asked Mohammad to make a formal presentation to the City Council during your Work Session on August 22, 2011.

6. The Technical Review Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 26. Three items were discussed during the meeting. The committee reviewed and approved Site Plan 08-11 for Dominion Power for property located at 1707 West Ehringhaus Street. The applicant will be constructing an equipment/storage area and a 4,800 square foot building behind their current office. The second item discussed was Site Plan 09-11 for WilcoHess, LLC at 1129 North Road Street. The applicant proposes a 1533 square foot addition to their existing building. The committee tabled this item in order for the applicant to return with additional technical information. The third item discussed was the relocation of the City's police firing range. The new location is proposed on the north side of Wellfield Road on approximately 34 acres of property owned by the City. A conditional use permit is required for this use and will have to be approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council.
7. Pursuant to the City's Code of Ordinances, I issued permits this week for sidewalk sales to be held downtown on Friday, August 5th and Saturday, August 6th. Friday's sale will be held from 10 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. and is being sponsored by Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. Saturday's sale will be held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and is being sponsored by the Downtown Business and Professional Association. These sidewalk sales will coincide with North Carolina's annual sales tax holiday which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. A complete list of items exempt from sales tax, as provided by the North Carolina Department of Revenue, is available on the homepage of the City's website (www.cityofec.com).
8. 2011 Coast Guard week began today and will run through August 6, with many activities being held throughout the community to celebrate our Coast Guard! Approval has been granted to the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce to hold Coast Guard Harbor Nights on Friday, August 5 from 6 – 9 p.m. at Waterfront Park. Featured will be a free concert by rising Nashville country star, Ashton Shepherd, brought to us by the USO. In addition, there will be children's activities, food vendors and beer garden. The Chamber anticipates an attendance of 1,000 people for this event. Water Street will be closed between Ehringhaus Street and Shepard Street from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m.

9. The Police Department's annual National Night Out Against Crime "Street Party" will be held on Tuesday, August 2 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Waterfront Park. This event is always a hit with the community. This year's celebration will feature contests, demonstrations, food booths, exhibits, activities for children and much more! The department will be collecting canned food to support the Food Bank of the Albemarle. This free event will be held rain or shine! Ehringhaus Street from McMorrine to Water Streets and Water Street between Ehringhaus and Shepard Streets will be closed from noon until approximately 10 p.m.
10. The Police Department is busy planning its seventh annual session of the Citizens' Police Academy. This year's academy will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from September 27 thru November 15. Applications are being accepted until September 13. Those interested in participating in the academy should contact Sgt. Wade Brite at 252-335-4321, extension 234.
11. Upcoming Event Reminders:
 - City Council Finance Committee meeting, Monday, August 1 at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers (The agenda for this meeting is available on the City's website.)
 - Planning Commission meeting, Tuesday, August 2 at 4 p.m. in Council Chambers (The agenda for this meeting is available in the Planning Department section of the City's website.)
 - Urban Forestry Commission meeting, Wednesday, August 3 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers

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