



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending September 15, 2006

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1. On September 14, 2006, I appeared before the State's Environmental Management Commission to request additional remission of the civil penalty assessed by DENR with regard to the City's 6 million gallon spill of raw sewage into the Pasquotank River when the 24-inch force main to the wastewater treatment plant ruptured on May 4, 2005. The original fine was \$65,414.81. We requested remission from DENR's Washington, NC staff and the fine was reduced to \$55,601.96. Our hearing before the Environmental Management Commission was to request that the State remit the total fine allowing the City to pay for the cost incurred by DENR to investigate the matter. That cost was determined to be \$3,414.81. The EMC rejected the City's request, stating that the work done on the force main in 1996 (after a barge hit it) was temporary in nature and the City should have by 2005 found a permanent solution to the problem. The City has permanently fixed the problem by doing a directional bore and placing the 24" force main 15 feet below the bottom of Knobbs Creek.
2. The design work for the street repaving projects for fiscal year 2006-2007, which includes Southern Avenue, have been completed. The City plans to bid the projects for an October 17, 2006 open date and will present the bids to the City Council for approval at its October 23, 2006 meeting for approval. Construction should begin shortly after bid award and be completed within sixty days, depending upon weather situations.
3. I regret to inform the City Council that I have received the resignation of Eric Weatherly, Director of Public Utilities. Mr. Weatherly's last day in Elizabeth City will be October 6, 2006. Mr. Weatherly has taken the position as County Engineer for Currituck County. Eric was the City's first licensed professional engineer. While here in Elizabeth City, he oversaw the Southern Avenue and Roanoke Avenue sewer projects and provided detailed analyses of the City's future water needs. He has been an

integral part of my management team and will be missed. Due to the existing work load, I am looking at bringing someone from the outside to be Interim Director until I can fill the position. I hope to have the position filled by January 1, 2007.

4. Sandra Anderson, the City's Community Development Officer has informed me that her last day will be September 29, 2006. Her resignation was expected once William decided to take the Chief of Police position in Greenville, North Carolina. Unfortunately it is not a good time for her to leave, while we try to work with DCA on the development of the Hugh Cale Training Center. I had advertised to fill her position several months ago but held off hiring someone until I had a firm date from Sandra. Human Resources will be contacting those individuals who had applied earlier to see if they are still interested in the position. If our applicant pool is too small or if qualified applicants are not included, we will re-advertise.
5. The Elizabeth City Fire Department is assisting Emergency Management in training local citizens in procedures for helping their fellow citizens during times of disasters. Through a grant received from the Department of Homeland Security Citizen Corps, this concept is achieved through the development of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). This nationally recognized program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Classes began on Monday night, September 11<sup>th</sup> and will continue through September 21<sup>st</sup> ending with an exercise on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Twelve citizens from Oxford Heights, Horseshoe Road (Pasquotank County), the Renaissance Community, Riverside area, North Road Street and other communities from the county are attending the class.
6. Chief Pritchard instructed an IS-700 Class for Elected Officials on September 7. Three City Councilors were in attendance. Councilors Hummer, Walton and Stallings all successfully completed the curriculum and the end of course test. ICS-300 classes began on September 14 and 15. Nineteen personnel were in attendance representing law enforcement, the fire department, GIS, USCG, Forestry, SBI and EMS. A second class will be held on September 21 and 22 from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. each day at the Pasquotank-Camden EMS Building. ICS-100 and ICS-200 is a prerequisite for this class. Pre-registration is required due to

the need to prepare student manuals. To pre-register, contact Chief Pritchard at 338-3913 or Christy Saunders at 335-4444. Chief William Pritchard is the instructor.

7. The City of Elizabeth City will be holding a public surplus auction on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at the Central Receiving Warehouse located at 1005 N. Poindexter Street. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed immediately by the sale at 10:00 a.m. Over three hundred items are to be sold including vehicles and furniture. The City has been disposing of surplus items through GovDeals; however, due to the large amount of items, a public auction is being held this year. Nosae Auction Company's Frank Eason will call the sale. All interested parties are invited to bid.
8. October is fire prevention month and after much success last year, we are again doing a fire and life safety production at College of the Albemarle Auditorium. The production is entitled "Sparky's Fire Safety Challenge" and will be open to the public on the following dates: October 3 – 5, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. daily. Each show is geared for both the young and the young at heart and offers education for everyone. There is no admission fee.
9. The Elizabeth City Police Department's Second Annual Citizen's Police Academy is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. The classroom portion will be held at College of the Albemarle. The Department has accepted and approved twenty-six (26) applicants to attend this year's Academy and although the class enrollment was limited to twenty-five students, the department will be able to handle an additional five students should anyone wish to apply. The classroom restrictions do not apply to members of City Council or any member in good standing that attends any of the City's fourteen Neighborhood Crime Watch Organizations.
10. The Conditional Zoning forum scheduled with David Owens of the Institute of Government on October 11, 2006 has been changed to Wednesday, October 25, 2006 from 2 to 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. This zoning technique was enacted by legislation earlier this year. Conditional Zoning is a technique whereby the owner and local government may impose site specific conditions on the property that address conformance of the development and use of the site. Both the owner and local government must agree to the conditions. Pasquotank and Camden County Planning Commissioners and Board of Commissioners have been invited to attend this session.

11. The Albemarle Hospital Authority Board of Commissioners and the Administration of Albemarle Hospital, Regional Medical Center, Albemarle Hospital Regional Oncology Center, Island Medical Center, Gates County Medical Center and the Albemarle Hospital Foundation will unveil their new logo on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at Albemarle Hospital beginning at 8:00 AM in the Main Lobby. A breakfast buffet will be available. Please RSVP directly for this event by calling 335-0531.

RCO/vdw