



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors  
**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending September 16, 2011  
**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. The contractors for Phase II of Contract 2 of the Elizabeth Street Utility Relocation Project are confident that they are still on target to complete Phase II by mid-October. Last week, progress on the gravity sewer was a bit slower than expected; but, they will be finishing the gravity sewer on Colonial Avenue up to Martin Luther King Drive by the middle of next week. They also will be starting the 24 inch sewer force main and the forming of the curb and gutter on the south side of Colonial Avenue. The contractor's intent is to give business owners at least 24 hours notice if there will be a planned interruption of service. Unfortunately this week, there was an accidental interruption of water service. We certainly hope this will not happen again, but it is a normal risk associated with a large scale utility reconstruction. Again, we remind everyone to be cautious when driving near the construction area. The section of Colonial Avenue from Poindexter Street to Martin Luther King Drive and McMorrine Street from Main Street to Elizabeth Street will have the most impact on traffic until Phase II is complete. Be aware of the street signs, as some traffic is being re-routed, in particular the section of Colonial Avenue from Water to Poindexter Streets. Again, we thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation as we make these improvements to our downtown.
2. I received notice this week that the Council of State has approved our agreement with Elizabeth City State University to convert the City's 2.5 megawatt generators on Hoffler Street to PURPA-qualified generators. The City will install a heat exchanger on our generators and ECSU will utilize the heat. This will free up 2.5 MW of our existing allocation under our contract with the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency and Progress Energy, which can be re-allocated to other sources. ECSU will utilize .5 MW of the "freed-up" capacity at their central plant, which will allow the university to migrate from a GS1 to a GS3 rate. This will save

the university approximately \$59,877 annually. The City's profit margin would remain the same. Now that the agreement has been approved, City staff will meet with university officials and develop a timeline for implementation.

3. This week, staff met with representatives of NCDOT to discuss utility coordination for two of their upcoming bridge projects; the replacement of the Church Street Extended Bridge over Knobbs Creek and the Route 17 North Bridge over Knobbs Creek. Both bridges are tentatively scheduled to be "let" in the fall of 2012; however, the City expects that the Route 17 North project will be delayed until the Camden Causeway Bridge Project is substantially complete in 2014. If the City's water or sewer pipes have to be relocated for either the Church Street or Route 17 North projects, the City will have to reimburse NCDOT for that cost.
4. The clean-up of tree limbs, leaves and other storm-related debris from Hurricane Irene is substantially complete. During the post storm clean-up, the City's Public Works crews picked up over 1,400 tons of storm related debris, delivering 659 loads of material to the Pasquotank County landfill. Again, I would like to thank the City crews for their commitment to the project and Pasquotank County for extending the open hours at the landfill so that we could complete the work in less than three weeks.
5. This week, staff from the Public Water Supply Section of DENR visited Elizabeth City to review the condition of the water distribution system. Although there have not been any violations of the minimum standards, they are concerned that there are sections of the Elizabeth City water distribution system where the water does not "turn over" as regularly as they would like to see. In their terms, the residence time of the treated water in the distribution system may become a problem for the City. Public Water Supply was glad to know that we are taking action to repair and adjust altitude valves at the water towers and that we are planning for a connection to Pasquotank County's water supply off Weeksville Road near River Road.
6. The Finance Committee will meet on Friday, September 23 at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers to review several items that will appear on the Council's agenda for the September 26 meeting. In order to include any necessary changes and/or recommendations made by the committee in the staff write-ups, the Council's agenda package for the September 26 meeting will be delivered on Friday, September 23, rather than the normal Thursday evening delivery.

7. During the past two weeks, the City had a temporary pump set up on the side of Ehringhaus Street near Dominion NC Power's building. The pump was there to bypass a sanitary sewer manhole that had collapsed. As an emergency project, the sewer manhole has been repaired, the pump has been removed and the sewer is back to normal operations.
8. The North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency Rate Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 5 in Wilson to review long term rate projections. Included on the agenda are discussions of budget projections and cost drivers for 2012; capital financing projections; rate projections; and a load side generation allocation and update. I will attend this meeting. The regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28. I will be unable to attend this meeting, however, since I have agreed to participate in the Chief of Police Assessment Center being held by the City of Rocky Mount on September 28 and 29.
9. Last weekend, the South Park Sports Complex hosted its first Nations Baseball tournament. This tournament was called "The Battle of the Bats". Nations Baseball is a youth baseball/softball organization, which is based in Houston, Texas. Barry Waiyanet is our district director and he had 25 teams registered for the first tournament. Only 23 teams actually participated in the tournament, as several school systems in Virginia had school on Saturday due to Hurricane Irene, and two teams cancelled for this reason. Approximately 345 players participated and an additional 1,400 plus parents/siblings/fans visited our facility during the two day tournament. There were five teams in the 9U division, nine teams in the 10U division and nine teams in the 12U division. The next tournament is scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and it will be called "The Battle of the Border". At this time, 30 teams have registered for this tournament.
10. The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) began playing league matches last weekend at the River Road Soccer Complex. AYSO has 31 teams participating this fall with approximately 300 kids. There are seven teams in the U-6, 10 teams in the U-8, seven teams in the U-10, four teams in the U-12, and three teams in the U-17 divisions. Ladies volleyball began September 12<sup>th</sup> with four teams participating. Open League Softball began August 29<sup>th</sup> with 16 teams participating. The Co-Ed Softball League began August 30<sup>th</sup> with nine teams. Girls Volleyball will begin at the end of September.

#### 11. Upcoming Event Reminders:

- Board of Zoning Adjustments meeting on Tuesday, September 20 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Mayoral Candidates Forum hosted by the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, September 20 in The Maguire Theater (Arts of the Albemarle), 516 E. Main Street from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **(NOTE LOCATION CHANGE)**
- The Chamber is sponsoring a Business After Hours hosted by the Albemarle Area United Way to kickoff their 2011-2012 campaign on Thursday, September 22 from 5 – 7 p.m. at AoA. RSVP by calling the Chamber (335-4365) by Tuesday, September 20 if you plan to attend.

RCO/vdw