



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending October 7, 2011

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1. This week, the weather has been favorable for the Elizabeth Street project (NCDOT U4438) road and utility construction downtown. Most all the underground utilities have been constructed for Phase II of Contract 2. The remaining work on the water, sewer and drainage work will be completed this week. By the end of next week, we also expect that the curb, gutter, sidewalk and the placement of the road base will be substantially complete. With continued good weather, we expect that Phase II of the work south of Elizabeth Street will have the base course of pavement complete, and the contractors will be ready to start Phase III, which includes McMorrine Street north and south of Colonial Avenue. Again, we remind everyone to be cautious when driving near the construction area. Be aware of the street signs, as traffic will continue to be re-directed on Colonial Avenue from Water to Poindexter Streets until Phase II is complete. At the end of this month, traffic in this area will revert back to normal (eastbound on Colonial Avenue). We thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation as we make these improvements to our downtown.
2. Contract 3 of the Elizabeth Street project includes all of the water, sewer, drainage, sidewalks and streets north of Elizabeth Street, plus the replacement of water and sewer mains on Road Street from Glade Street to Ward Street. The bid and contract documents are currently being reviewed by NCDOT. The City is expecting NCDOT approval soon; and after NCDOT approval of the documents, we anticipate that it will take about a month before the work starts.
3. We have received an official press release from the NCDOT regarding the replacement of the eastbound drawbridge on U.S. 158 over the Pasquotank River. As I reported to you last week, the span will close on Monday, October 17, weather permitting. Contractor crews have already

begun staging equipment around the project. Work will be performed in five phases:

- Phase 1: Placing traffic in a two lane-two way pattern from the intersection of U.S. 158 and Water Street to the east side of the bridge.
- Phase 2: Reconstructing U.S. 158 up to Water Street.
- Phase 3: Closing Road Street and eliminating left turns from eastbound U.S. 158 to Water Street.
- Phase 4: Reconstructing of the Water Street intersection.
- Phase 5: Placing traffic on the new bridge.

NCDOT is taking steps to ensure that construction on U.S. 158 does not damage adjacent buildings. Construction methods will be used that minimize vibration and digging. NCDOT prepared a vibration monitoring plan that limits the level of vibrations allowed by construction equipment and will monitor vibrations during periods of construction. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2015.

4. On Wednesday, City staff attended a meeting of the Pasquotank County Water Committee. The primary discussion was about the progress on the new County RO water plant. At this point, it appears that the County will be ready to deliver water to the City under the terms of City/County water agreements in February 2012. We expect to meet our obligation to purchase 250,000 gallons of water per day. The City will be able to take about 50,000 to 70,000 gallons on Halstead Boulevard Extended from the Knobbs Creek crossing west to the Wal-Mart shopping center. The balance of the City's water purchase obligation will be taken from the County's Weeksville Plant and delivered to the City near the Weeksville and River Roads intersection. The City will have to make minor modifications to accommodate the interconnections with the County water system.
5. Tonight and tomorrow night is the Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association's annual Ghost Walk. This year the event has a unique twist. ECHNA has requested permission to fire cannon in the 900 block of Riverside Avenue. The cannon fire will simulate cannon that were used in 1900 during the search for the body of Nell Cropsey. It is my understanding that vibrations from cannon fire were used to free her lifeless body after it had gotten tangled in debris on the river bottom. The cannon will be discharged four times an hour from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday evenings. I have been assured that they will not be using cannon balls! In addition, approval has been given by NCDOT for Ehringhaus Street to be closed between McMorrine Street and Water Street to accommodate that part of the Ghost Walk tour that is

occurring in the Episcopal Cemetery. This closure will occur both nights from 5:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

6. On Wednesday, October 5, the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency Rate Committee met in Wilson to look at the Agency's rate structure for calendar years 2012 through 2015. The committee will be forwarding to the Board of Commissioners a recommendation of no rate increase in fiscal year 2012. NCEMPA will be required to make several capital additions to our power plant assets over the next few years. To insure that rates stay stable, NCEMPA will be doing some debt financing of these capital additions. With adequate debt financing, the City's wholesale purchase price of power should remain stable until 2015. The City's purchase of power accounts for 84% of the Electric Fund's operating budget.
7. The Elizabeth City Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention Show will be held next week at the College of the Albemarle. The show times are Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m. daily. City Council members are invited to attend. If you do plan to attend one of the shows, please let someone from the Fire Department know so you can be recognized during the show. This show is a great event that reaches kids from Elizabeth City and the surrounding counties and is always very popular with the public.
8. On Saturday, October 1, the Albemarle Fireman's Association sponsored a Fire Fighters Competition and Family Fun Day, hosted by Plymouth Fire Department in Plymouth, NC. The Elizabeth City Fire Department entered two teams in the competition, as well as a fire apparatus. There were nine teams from several different departments throughout the Albemarle area competing in six team events, as well as twenty-five individuals participating in an individual tough man/ladies competition. The Elizabeth City Fire Department placed second in two of the six team events; their fire apparatus took first place in the Fire Engine category; and Fire Fighter Jonathan Boyce took first place in the 18 – 39 age tough man competition in the individual event. Congratulations to all participants for their success at the competition.
9. The Museum of the Albemarle and the Elizabeth City Fire Department will recognize Fire Safety Month on Tuesday, October 25 and Friday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the museum. Participants must be between the ages of 3 to 5 years old and must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-schoolers will compare past and present fire trucks, clothing and equipment while participating in a hands-on activity during this free event. Fire Department personnel will be present to take part in the activities.

10. The Food Bank of the Albemarle's Annual Walk for Hunger will be held on Sunday, October 9 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. beginning and ending at Charles Creek Park. Walk participants will travel thru the Riverside area. Some traffic disruption should be expected.

11. Upcoming Event Reminders:

- Regular City Council meeting on Monday, October 10 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers.
- Special Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 4 p.m. in Council Chambers.
- Historic Preservation Commission meeting on Thursday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

RCO/vdw