



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending December 23, 2011

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1. TA Loving continues to work on Contract 3 of the Elizabeth Street utility relocation project. Contract 3 covers North Road Street and Pearl Street. On Tuesday, they provided the City with a copy of their work schedule for the next four weeks. They will be installing the waterline on Pearl Street to Martin Luther King Drive over the next three weeks. This work should be completed by January 10, 2012. Following that, they will install the waterline from Martin Luther King Drive to Poindexter Street, which should take another three weeks to complete. On January 16, 2012, an additional crew for TA Loving will begin mobilizing to begin the installation of the sewer line on Pearl Street. Due to its depth, this project will take several months to complete.
2. In 2009, the City applied for a CDBG grant to fund the South Road Street infrastructure project, but the project did not receive funding. We have received notice that the 2012 round of CDBG funding will shortly be available for application. Therefore, we intend to try again this year to secure grant funding for water and sewer improvements in South Road Street (past Ehringhaus Street going south toward Herrington Road). The City will also apply for a CDBG NC Catalyst grant, which has multiple uses including removal of slum and blight in the City and making improvements to neighborhood facilities, such as the former Elizabeth City Middle School building at the intersection of Elizabeth Street and North Road Street. This facility is used by the Police Athletic League (PAL) for youth programs. We most likely will have to choose slum and blight removal or facility improvements at some point in the future, based on probability of funding success in the grant application. The City does not yet have enough information regarding the NC Catalyst grant at this time. The City also intends to apply for an infrastructure hook-up grant for a few houses on Fifth Street developed for low/moderate income households. CDBG guidelines require the City to hold a public hearing to inform the

citizens regarding projects for which we intend to apply; and we will request that the Council call for the public hearing during your January 9, 2012 meeting. At this time, it is staff's intention to apply for a CDBG Infrastructure Grant for South Road Street (\$750,000), a CDBG NC Catalyst Grant (\$500,000) for public facility improvements and/or slum and blight removal and an infrastructure hook-up grant for a few houses on Fifth Street developed by a non-profit organization (\$75,000).

3. Most City offices will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27 for the Christmas holiday. Monday's and Tuesday's garbage and recycling routes will be collected on Wednesday, December 28. Wednesday's and Thursday's routes will be collected on Thursday, December 29. In observance of the New Year's holiday, most City offices will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2012. Monday's recycling and garbage route will be collected on Tuesday, January 3.
4. The NC USA State Boxing Championship for qualifying for the USA Olympics (18 and under) will be held at the PAL Center on January 27 and January 28. It is estimated that 44 youths, their coaches and parents will be in attendance. This is another type of sports tourism for our area and comes during one of our shoulder months. I would like to thank Lt. John Young and Debbie Leete PAL board members and Tourism Director Charlotte Underwood for working on this project.
5. We have been informed by the Army Corps of Engineers that the South Mills Lock "River Gate" will be refurbished starting January 3, 2012 after the 3:30 p.m. locking. The gate will be lifted from the water and inspected, repairs made where appropriate, and repainted. It is my understanding that this process occurs about every 15 years or so and it must be budgeted accordingly with each of the two gates receiving their proper care. This is a process that helps to keep the canal operational and all in good working condition. It takes 60-90 days to refurbish, depending on weather and the amount of repairs required, so unfortunately the Dismal Swamp Canal will be closed from January 4, 2012 until the work is completed. The good news is that this will occur during the least busy time of year and hopefully will not affect too many boaters. Forgoing any problems, the canal should be back open in time to greet the migration of boaters traveling north in the spring of 2012.
6. I would like to wish the Council, City employees and all our citizens a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. Due to the short work week next week, there will not be an FYI prepared.

RCO/vdw