



CITY OF
ELIZABETH CITY
HARBOR OF HOSPITALITY *North Carolina*

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
REF: City Manager's Weekly FYI ~ July 24, 2020
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1. On July 1st, the City of Elizabeth City received a waiver from Executive Orders 124 / 142 from the Attorney General's office. The waiver allows the City to return to our normal utility billing collections process. The utility bills that were distributed on July 3rd include a statement that outstanding bills must either be paid by July 27th, 2020 or the customer must enter into a "COVID arrangement." Accounts that are not paid or otherwise put on a payment arrangement / agreement will be subject to service interruption. Since July 3rd, the City has had 154 customers execute COVID agreements; however, we still have 1,041 on the July 2nd cycle who have neither executed an agreement nor made payments. If you need to enter into a COVID agreement, please make an appointment to see Customer Service staff at the satellite location on Griffin Street. You can also click [HERE](#) to submit an online request for an agreement.

2. Included in the FY 2019/2020 Budget was the purchase of a F-550 Dump Truck for the Public Works Department. The City ordered the truck for \$54,474 off of state contract, and Public



Works took possession of the truck on April 8, 2020. While at the landfill yesterday, the O-ring on the power take-off blew out, spilling hydraulic fluid onto the muffler, and causing the truck to burn up. The City has submitted a claim to our insurer, the NC League of Municipalities. The League will be sending out an adjustor within the next few days to have a look at the truck. City staff has contacted Piedmont Truck, the company the truck was purchased from, to put them on notice. This truck is a critical part of the Public Works fleet because of its dumping capabilities. I have instructed Public Works to order a replacement truck at this time. The lead time on these types of trucks can be more than six months. Once we receive the insurance check, staff will be bringing a budget amendment forward for Council consideration.

3. The Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank our community for all the love and support shown to the Downtown Waterfront Market over the last week. It is evident that our market is wanted and very much needed and appreciated by many. As a USDA Certified Market, we are proud to serve participants in the WIC and Senior Nutrition Farmers Market Program throughout not only Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County and Camden County, but all of Northeastern North Carolina. We are honored and proud to fill any nutritional voids in our community. This week's market will feature beauty products, handmade jewelry, beach crafts, and of course plenty of fresh local produce! The Vietnam Veterans and the Coast Guard Spouses will also have booths. Our department would also like to thank Mayor Bettie Parker, City Council and City Administration for their support and continuation of the Downtown Waterfront Market. We invite everyone to come on down to visit our market soon! Our hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. For more information on our Downtown Waterfront Market please call 252-339-4092 or visit our website, downtownmarket@cityofec.com. Here's hoping for cool, clear weather tomorrow!
4. On Wednesday, Assistant City Manager Judge was appointed to the North Carolina City & County Manager's Association Seminar Program & Conference Committee. ACM Judge joins 18 of our public administrator peers across the state to plan and execute the Association's winter and summer seminar in coordination with liaisons from the School of Government, North Carolina League of Municipalities and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. I commend all City's employees who pay forward the return on training, development, and conference participation. Volunteering is important for career development; doing so gives the opportunity to practice important common skills used in the workplace, such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, planning and organization. NCLM and NCCCMA have been a long-time of the City organization and employees. ACM Judge will continue to represent the City in excellence.

5. As of July 1, 2020, NCDOT turned over their Elizabeth Street Corridor Beautification Project to the City. This project began three years ago in 2017, following the completion of the Pasquotank/Camden Bridge Project.



NCDOT hired a private contractor to install irrigation, flower beds, plantings, trees and decorative walls and walking paths from Sheep-Harney School to Water Street. The Parks and Recreation Department has been working to get the flower beds, trees, and irrigation system returned to "our" standards. As many of you already know, our Parks and Recreation Department holds itself to a high standard when it comes to our parks. These "pocket" parks along Elizabeth Street needed four of the six irrigation Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) assemblies replaced. Two of the Crepe Myrtle trees have been damaged and need to be replaced along with a few of the plantings in several of the beds. Additionally, the beds need to be mulched. There has also been some damage to the decorative wall between Martin L. King and McMorrine Streets that must be repaired. This week, staff edged the sidewalks along the corridor and have worked on several of the flower beds. In the next few weeks you will notice more work along the retention pond, weed removal from the turf grass, and fresh mulch in the flower beds.

6. A quick note to update everyone on our Nexgrid Smart Metering installation progress. As of this afternoon, the Electric Department has successfully installed and tested roughly 2,050 new meters. We're confident we can keep our track of 500+ new meter installations up each week until the process is complete. We're making great strides and I'd like to thank our crews for their diligent efforts to bring Elizabeth City into the future!