



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 ~ January 31, 2020  
**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. On Wednesday, I attended a meeting arranged by Chancellor Karrie Dixon at the Airport Authority, to discuss Runway 119 with Senator Tillis' office and the USCG. For several years, the Airport Authority has been working with the USCG to improve Runway 119. Reopening Runway 119 would be very advantageous for the Elizabeth City State University flight program. Over the last year, ECSU lost 98 flying days as a result of crosswinds, making it imperative that the runway be brought up to current standards and reopened. The Airport is requesting that the USCG provide an easement to the Authority, which would allow them to resurface the runway to a width of 100 feet. There would be no cost to the USCG for any work done on the runway. Over the last three years, the Authority has worked with the NCDOT Division of Aviation to secure funding for the resurfacing project. Although the primary use of Runway 119 will be for general aviation, it will be designed to accommodate C-150; therefore, the Coast Guard may wish to use it. Chancellor Dixon provided excellent leadership facilitating the meeting. It will take several meetings before we know if our meeting with the Senator's office has been successful.
2. The Parks and Recreation Department is brainstorming on new facilities, and it could use the public's help. First, the Parks and Recreation Department is planning to expand Enfield Park, and it encourages City residents to attend a public input session on February 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center. Parks and Rec will briefly describe the facilities Enfield now offers, and then open the floor for citizens to suggest what they want at the park. Please attend! Public participation will help the City win grant funding for whatever new facilities the public prefers. Second, Parks and Rec is also soliciting broader feedback on the City's parks through an online survey, available [HERE](#). The 10-question survey includes questions about residents' most-

used parks and most-desired facilities. Citizens' feedback will help plan the future of Enfield and other City parks.

3. On Thursday, Chief Buffaloe and members of his Executive Command Staff attended a BolaWrap demonstration held at the Albemarle District Jail. Corey Peters, Management Partner of Triton 6 LLC., conducted a demonstration for law enforcement professionals from



Elizabeth City Police Department, Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Office, Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, Albemarle District County Jail staff members, and other dignitaries. BolaWrap is a hand-held remote restraint device that provides a safe distance between a subject and an officer. It does not rely on pain compliance and is designed to be deployed early in a police-citizen engagement. Such technology can be an asset to law enforcement agencies in that it allows time to deescalate and provide needed support during such encounters. Chief Buffaloe and I will continue to seek innovative modern policing solutions to ensure the safety of officers and the citizens of Elizabeth City.

4. James McCotter has joined the Public Utilities Department as our new Street Superintendent. He comes to us from the City of Kinston where he worked for 17 years. James has an Associate's Degree in Industrial Management Technology and a diploma in Industrial Engineering Technology both from Lenoir Community College. Additionally, he holds certifications in traffic signals and work zone safety. We are excited to have James join Team Elizabeth City and look forward to his knowledge and experience on our many City projects.
5. On Friday, City staff celebrated the retirement of Melvin Sutton after 30 years of service to the Solid Waste Division of the Public Utilities Department. Many in attendance commented on Melvin's positive attitude and influence. We wish Melvin all the best in his retirement endeavors and thank him for the contribution and years of service to the citizens of the City of Elizabeth City.
6. A text amendment for increasing the amount of allowable wall signage within the Halstead Boulevard Overlay District has been submitted by Anchor Signs, Inc. Anchor Signs is working on the signage for the new Aspen Dental Building to be located at 3875 Conlon Way, the intersection with Tanglewood Parkway and Halstead Boulevard. Their application is for three wall signs, one for each street frontage, with a total area of approximately 185 square feet. Under the current regulations, the

amount of allowable wall signage is based upon the length of the front building elevation. For a 50-foot long wall they are permitted only 75 square feet of signage to be placed on the front elevation. Outside of the Halstead Overlay District, if a building faces more than one street, they are allocated additional signage for each street frontage. This amendment will be heard at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 306 East Colonial Avenue.

7. The City of Elizabeth City is currently seeking individuals who reside within the corporate limits of Elizabeth City to serve as members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Minimum qualifications do not apply; however, special consideration will be given to applicants with a background in land use and development, planning, land use law, or general commerce. Membership of the commission is on a voluntary basis. For more information, please contact our Community Development Department at (252)337-6672.
8. For the month of January, our Code Enforcement Division has had a total of 88 new code violation cases from 01/01/2020 to 01/29/2020. Thirty-four (34) cases have been closed this month, with a total of 87 active cases still open.

9. On Thursday, the Elizabeth City Police Department hosted a Coffee with a Cop event at Starbucks of Elizabeth City. This continued community policing initiative helps to promote positive involvement within our community by providing a unique opportunity for



for individuals to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Elizabeth City neighborhoods. Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for relaxed, one-on-one interaction. The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members. Members of the Elizabeth City Police Department had a great time fellowshiping with citizens and look forward to future events at local establishments.

10. The Elizabeth City Police Department is pleased to announce Mr. Devon Whitesides, a student with the Northeast Academy for Aerospace

and Advanced Technologies (NEAAAT), will be interning with the agency for the next six months. The Department shares a partnership with NEAAAT, whose mission is a highly innovative regional academy that educates a group of diverse students for advanced careers and degree programs in STEM-related fields. NEAAAT works to inspire and prepare students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to pursue the high demand jobs and careers of the future. This regional STEM school is designed as a statewide model that will graduate students who have earned up to two years of college credit along with their high school diploma and students will gain credentials and certifications valued by employers. Devon will be assisting throughout the various divisions/units/bureaus of the Elizabeth City Police Department; and learning about the department's daily operations and the duties/assignments of its sworn and civilian personnel. Welcome aboard, Devon!

### **Upcoming Events**

Our Planning Commission will meet for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

There will be a Historic Preservation Commission Meeting on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers