

Jim Palenick

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ent: Friday, February 21, 2014 10:59 AM
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Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Report (#64)

Mayor & Board of Aldermen(Women):

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Report for the Week-ended, Friday, February 21, 2014.**

- Several weeks ago I had reported that the emergency back-up generator at the Police Department was in need of repairs, and preliminary indications were that the damages were quite severe –possibly even to the point of requiring complete replacement. Since that time, following very detailed and in-depth examination and evaluation, we were able to determine that the repairs could be accomplished at minimal cost. To that end, the generator has been fully repaired and is in place and operable at a total cost of \$205.00. Obviously, we were very pleased with this news given the early diagnosis.
- Earlier this week, a malfunction within the gauge and valve hardware within the elevated water storage tank on Oakland Street caused the Town to shut the tank down and rely on the Town's other storage tank while we determined the nature of the problem and could identify and implement an appropriate "fix". As a result, we have found that an internal overflow pipe must be replaced with an external version running the length of the Tower to be consistent with current NCDENR specifications. The cost to accomplish this change will be approximately \$14,300.00. We have, however determined that an acceptable, short-term, compliant solution can be accomplished for minimal cost which will allow proper functioning for the next several months while we Budget for the permanent solution within the upcoming FY2014-2015 Budget. Then assuming approval, we will complete the permanent solution beginning in July.
- We also learned this week that the NC Department of Transportation has programmed, budgeted, and scheduled the re-surfacing of Gaston Avenue, which is both surprising and very welcome news. However, we also learned that they were planning to do it right away, which would have had us coming back in and making a series of pavement cuts to the newly-paved surface in order to install the just-approved 1-mile of new 8" water-main from Trade St. to Robinson-Clemmer Avenue. Obviously, that was not acceptable. So we contacted NCDOT reps with our dilemma and they have graciously agreed to work with us such that we will be able to complete our water-main installation and then they will come back and do the re-surfacing. A clear "win-win" for all concerned.
- Mayor Coleman, along with Alderman Cearley and Alderwoman Duff, attended the "Essentials of Municipal Government" seminar on Wednesday and Thursday of this week in Hickory, which was sponsored and conducted by the North Carolina League of Municipalities. These sessions are designed to assist newly-elected local officials better understand the fundamentals of local government within North Carolina, as well as to provide longer-tenured, elected officials with a "refresher –update" on such matters.
- I have been developing a "draft" of a policy for use and operation of the new Electronic Variable Message Sign, and should be able to get you all a copy to review soon, perhaps by Tuesday night's Work Session. This is something we will need to focus on and ultimately put in place promptly, because we are already receiving requests to post messages on the sign and will need a clear policy (including possible fees and hierarchy of "priority") before we can begin such postings.
- We will be holding our first Board "Work Session", next Tuesday (February 25th) at 6:00 p.m. in the community room of the Fire hall and you will be receiving your Agenda packet for same today (Friday, February 21st.) As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at your individual convenience.

Thank You,

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