

Jim Palenick

From: Jim Palenick [jpalenick@dallasnc.net]
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2013 2:45 PM
To: 'rcdc18@charter.net'; 'ronniemorrow@att.net'; 'jonsara@msn.com'; 'scott.martin@duke-energy.com'; 'huggybarber@att.net'; 'hoylewithers@yahoo.com'
Cc: 'Maria Stroupe'; 'gbuckner@dallasnc.net'; 'Bill Trudnak'; 'dhuffman@dallasnc.net'; 'David Kahler'; 'slambert@dallasnc.net'; 'amartin@dallasnc.net'; 'J. Thomas Hunn'
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly report (#41)

Mayor & Board of Aldermen:

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Report for the Week-ended Friday, August 9, 2013.**

- Johnny Rogers, the owner of the home at 806 Park Road where the Sewer back-up occurred in May, has been notified that any further issues he has with the Town, or claims he wishes to pursue are to go exclusively through the Town Attorney, Mr. Hunn. As such, if any additional Town actions are to be pursued, or assistance offered, we will look to Mr. Hunn for his recommendation.
- With regard to the Carr School athletic fields and the Town's issues with property control therefore, Mr. Hunn has sent a correspondence to the School Board Attorney indicating that the Town chose not to move forward with the Storm Water improvements since we couldn't, in good conscience, expend such a large sum of public funds on physical improvements to property we had no effective control over or liability for. Further, that we would also hold off on other improvements unless we could either acquire fee simple title to the property, or agree to a long-term lease providing actual control. With this in mind, we are also rethinking the location for our budgeted development of an equipment storage building on site, to see if we can locate it immediately adjacent to the school athletic fields on property the Town actually owns and controls. That way we will have the convenience of equipment stored in proximity to where the maintenance work must occur, without the concerns over the right to continue occupying space we don't own or control for the long term.
- A planning meeting for Hope-4-Gaston/Dallas was held at the Fire hall Community Room Thursday evening and John Whitaker, the founder and driving force behind the initial Hope-4-Gaston events was in attendance to offer further information on logistics and activity plans. At this point, the plans call for Cloninger Park to serve as Home base for the day-long event and there will be ten, 10'x20' tents set up to accommodate the various efforts which will be part of the outreach. In addition to the work on painting, repairing and improving homes in Dallas and landscaping efforts at Carr school, there is to also be serving and distribution of a free lunch; distribution of clothes through the "closet of hope"; a distribution of food-boxes equal to that required to feed a family of four for a week; and a live band providing entertainment throughout the day. Town staff will continue to assist the volunteers from multiple churches and faith-based organizations in the area. Remember that Saturday, October 5th is the day designated for this inaugural Dallas version of Hope-4-Gaston.
- Earlier in the Summer the Town participated in a Grant-assisted storm-water improvement project which made improvements to the areas near Gibbs Street and Briarwood Drive and removed an old railroad embankment. The Town received \$24,016.00 in State grant Funds toward the final total project cost of \$34,391.00. Since completion, however, the unprecedented level of major rainfall events caused damages to the newly-constructed improvements requiring an additional \$9,177.15 in costs to repair. The State has informed us that they have a pool of funds within the same grant category designed to assist with such unusual occurrences, and it will cover 75% of these unexpected costs. As such, if the Town so authorizes (which we have give them the go-ahead to move forward with Town participation) we will receive \$6,883.00 more from the State while we will be picking up the remaining \$2,294.15.
- Four interviews were conducted this last week with potential candidates for the Utility Arborist/Forester and Line Clearance Trimmer/Landscaper positions. So far, we are feeling optimistic about the quality of candidates interviewed.

Thank You,

Jim Palenick
Interim Town Manager