

## Jim Palenick

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**From:** Jim Palenick [jpalenick@dallasnc.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 3:22 PM  
**To:** 'Rick Coleman'; 'huggybarber@att.net'; 'hoylewithers@yahoo.com'; 'JOHN BEATY'; 'Martin, Scott'; 'ronniemorrow@att.net'  
**Cc:** 'Maria Stroupe'; 'btrudnak@dallasnc.net'; 'Doug Huffman'; 'David Kahler'; 'A Martin'; 'Gary Buckner'; 'slambert@dallasnc.net'  
**Subject:** Weekly update on Town Matters  
**Attachments:** Agenda.docx

Mayor & Board of Aldermen:

It is my intention to begin weekly updates on Town issues and matters, so I will begin with today and continue hereafter for however long my tenure ultimately lasts. Please always know, in addition, that you all should feel entirely comfortable to either call, e-mail or drop by the office at anytime if you have any questions or need any additional information. That is what I am here for and would strongly welcome the inquiries and/or input. With that, **For the Week-ended Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012:**

As you probably know, the swing-sets near the Dennis Franklin Gym have been taken down and removed at my direction earlier in the week. You will recall that we recently had an incident in which a young girl using the swing suffered a broken leg when the seat broke free from the vertical anchor chains in mid-use. This matter is being handled by our insurance provider and we do expect to incur some level of liability. To what magnitude will be determined by whether the claim can be settled or if it instead results in litigation. In any event, it made quite clear the need to maintain those sets, and all of our playground equipment, in a verifiably-safe and properly-maintained manner. When I inspected the sets, due to their age and design, along with the nature and configuration of the appurtenant parts used, it was obvious they were simply not designed for contemporary safety standards, nor economically able to be effectively rehabbed, so the decision was made for removal. In turn, however, we have every intention of promptly purchasing and installing new, safe sets for that location as soon as same can be accomplished.

In addition, with the recent Budget amendment we will be purchasing and installing a new small play structure for Jagers Park, and in turn, using some of the verifiably-safe components of the play structure we received from the Gastonia YMCA, ( which were all powder-coated to appear like new) to install a newly developed-small play area at the front of Cloninger Park (where the monkey bars and climbing apparatus stood—those components will be powder-coated and re-installed with proper anchoring as well if they prove safe and rehabable.) You can expect all these efforts to be ongoing over the course of the next month.

We hope to begin work on the full, ADA-compliant rehab, expansion, and upgrade of the Bathrooms at the Gym, along with the paving of the lot very soon. We have simply been pursuing the architect-certified design and permitting of same prior to getting started. We hope to have the work completed in time to support this year's basketball season.

Also this week we had multiple complaints of trip-n-fall hazards at the sidewalk near the intersection of W. Church and S. Oakland in front of the senior apartments. As a result, we temporarily closed the offending section for a day, then promptly had the damaged sections removed and replaced (2 sections about 10 ft long). It is now complete, cured and will be fully restored by early next week.

The Dallas Historic Courthouse Foundation Board of Directors has now met three times and have begun to develop a number of pro-active initiatives to begin to aggressively fund-raise for the Courthouse renovation project. They will have car window decals for donation-distribution beginning with the bike tour on October 2<sup>nd</sup>; they are purchasing 20, 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary commemorative street-pole banners for installation around the Courthouse square; they will have a float in the Christmas parade; and are planning a fund-raising cocktail reception for February; just as initial efforts. They have

also contracted with Lisa Boggs Marketing for professional assistance with the promotional and marketing aspects of the Fund-raising campaign.

We did receive official notification, from the Governor's office, earlier in the week, of the \$750,000 CDBG Grant Award for the Water distribution system improvement project. We will need to properly solicit and procure a consultant to assist with Grant Administration (our submitted Budget contemplated and shows use of up to \$68,000 of Funds for this purpose) who will, in turn, assist with environmental clearance; citizen participation; documentation of income eligibility; performance reporting; monitoring and audits; overall federal compliance; and final close-out. There is a great deal of documentation which must go along with such an award and strict adherence to federal law and administrative procedures must be adhered to or the funding could be in jeopardy. It should be noted that \$750,000 was the single-largest Grant awarded to any Community in this cycle and was only matched by Four others (of a total of 18 Awards state-wide.)

Finally, we will be getting the Agenda Packet out for the October 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting on Tuesday of Next Week (October 2<sup>nd</sup>). A preliminary draft of the Agenda itself is attached herewith for your review. If you have questions, please let me know.

Thank You,

Jim Palenick  
Interim Town Manager