

## Jim Palenick

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**From:** Jim Palenick [jpalenick@dallasnc.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2013 11:32 AM  
**To:** 'rcdc18@charter.net'; 'ronniemorrow@att.net'; 'scott.martin@duke-energy.com'; 'huggybarber@att.net'; 'hoylewithers@yahoo.com'; 'JOHN BEATY'  
**Cc:** 'Maria Stroupe'; 'gbuckner@dallasnc.net'; 'Steve Lambert'; 'David Kahler'; 'Doug Huffman'; 'Bill Trudnak'; 'A. Martin'; 'J. Thomas Hunn'  
**Subject:** Town Manager's Weekly Report (#48)  
**Attachments:** electricities awards 2013.pdf

Mayor & Board of Aldermen:

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Report for the Week-ended, Friday, October 11, 2013.**

- Electricities recently announced the recipients of its 2013 "NC Public Power Awards of Excellence" in Five (5) categories. As you will see from the press release (attached) we are proud of the fact that the Dallas Municipal Electric Utility was officially honored with Award designations in each of the two categories for which we applied..... being, "Energy Efficiency" and "Service Excellence".
- We have begun discussions with the Town's Electrical consultant, Mr. Bob Thomas of Progressive Engineering, regarding the production of an electrical rate study with possible recommendations on restructuring, in advance of our year-end decision on any possible rate changes based on Duke's Wholesale increase to us. We have not engaged in reviewing our rate structure in many years and believe that it may be improperly subsidizing one class of customers over others and we would like it to reflect contemporary standards. Any restructure would be revenue neutral so that if the Board chooses to raise rates in response to a possible Duke increase, we would then just apply the percentage increase decided upon, across the various rate categories as restructured. This study had been planned for and is included in the Electric Department Budget for Professional and Consulting services.
- Since the Board approved the "TOP TIER" Economic Incentive Grant Program, I will now begin work on developing the application forms that will be required of applicants, and which will explain what is required as to supporting documentation (i.e. financial background, ownership record, expense estimates, etc..). Also, we will get with the Dallas Chamber for their two appointments to the Review Committee as well as with Brad Rivers the Director of the Small Business Center at Gaston College, who is also designated to serve on the Committee. I must also request, however, that the Board revisit this issue at the November Meeting to formally amend the adopted policy to Change the calculation methodology for funding the TOP TIER Fund consistent with the desire to decrease the initial contribution to \$90,000. The best way to achieve this is to simply change the twenty-five-percent (25%) of the Unreserved Fund Balance over 40% of Budget; to: **"Twelve-Percent"**. This would then result in an estimated initial funding of \$88,225.00, which should prove more than adequate for the first year.
- Also, based on what I understood occurred at the Board meeting, you all will have to revisit the Annexation Request for the Ratchford Drive property and formally take action on it. You must either vote to Approve or Deny the Annexation. In allowing a Motion to die for lack of a second, you haven't responded to the formal request of the Applicant – it must be either Approved or Denied by Vote of the Board.
- With regard to the Design Engineering for the Wastewater Interconnect line to the Long Creek Plant that was also authorized, I will speak to representatives of Gastonia in order to agree on an Engineering firm and cost allocation so that the work can be completed as an integral whole. It would make no sense to have two separate engineering firms each design component pieces to a project that is singular in nature. Hopefully we will have no difficulty in agreeing on terms. I will keep you informed as we find out more.
- Our decorative "Cloninger Park Sign" was vandalized and damaged beyond repair this last week, so we have ordered a replacement and will be installing it upon receipt. We will make some modifications in installation this time to attempt to make it more sturdy and less prone to such mischief, but ultimately vandals are hard to stop if determined enough. We do have the Police Department investigating the matter, including reviewing all security camera's within the area.

- The Electric Department's new Arborist began work on Tuesday of this week and his tree-trimmer/landscaper employee officially begins on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Their bucket/trimming truck and like-painted chipper are in our possession as well. Expect to begin seeing them out and about and working as a crew the week of the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- I was very pleased to be a part of the Town of Dallas volunteer team that represented the Town at last Saturday's Hope-4-Gaston-Dallas event. Our group spent the morning mulching and landscaping at Carr school, including cleaning and refreshing all of the planting beds and tree bases. Everyone worked hard and were a great credit to our organization. I must admit I can't speak to the overall event since we were limited to the school effort. It did appear that the advance planning and organization was not what it could have been and this would have to be addressed for future events.
- As you know I traveled to New Mexico earlier this week to participate in a job interview for a County Manager position. The opportunity is lucrative and I believe I performed very well, however, upon reflection it does not appear at this time in my life and career to be a good fit. As such, I have withdrawn from any further consideration in the process. I sincerely thank you for your gracious understanding in allowing me to pursue more permanent career opportunities as I continue to serve as your Interim Town Manager.

Thank You,

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## **2013 NC Public Power Awards of Excellence Announced**

**Raleigh, NC, Sept. 30, 2013** –Twenty-one publicpower communities across the state received2013Public Power Awards of Excellence. The awards honor outstanding efforts in key areas such as creating a competitive business environment, legislative involvement on public power issues, customer service programs and community energy efficiency promotion.

### **Competitive Business Environment**

The Competitive Business Environment award recognizes efforts by the city to create a strong business climate, including economic development planning and community/regional partnering, an online economic development presence and focus on key accounts customers.

Albemarle, Benson, Concord, Fayetteville PWC, Gastonia, Granite Falls, Greenville Utilities Commission, High Point, Kings Mountain, Kinston, Lexington, Morganton, Rocky Mount, Shelby, Statesville, Tarboro and Wilson.

### **Energy Efficiency**

The Energy Efficiency award recognizes efforts by the city with energy-efficient building programs, energy education and energy audits.

Albemarle, Benson, Concord, Dallas, Fayetteville PWC, Gastonia, Granite Falls, Greenville Utilities Commission, High Point, Kings Mountain, Kinston, Lexington, Monroe, Morganton, Newton, Rocky Mount, Shelby, Smithfield, Statesville, Tarboro and Wilson.

### **Financial Stability**

The Financial Stability award recognizes customer options throughout the billing process, including: equal payment programs, alternate payment methods such as online billing and payment, credit card payments and multiple payment locations. This award also recognizes community partnerships to help customers in need and the implementation of new technology within the electric system.

Albemarle, Benson, Concord, Fayetteville PWC, Gastonia, Granite Falls, Greenville Utilities Commission, High Point, Kings Mountain, Kinston, Lexington, Morganton, Newton, Rocky Mount, Shelby, Smithfield, Statesville, Tarboro and Wilson.

### **Legislative Involvement**

The Legislative Involvement award recognizes city staff and officials' involvement in the legislative process on issues pertaining to public power. The award recognizes city officials

actively engaging with their legislative delegation, participation in ElectriCities-sponsored events and involvement in the Public Power Grassroots Network.

Albemarle, Concord, Fayetteville PWC, Gastonia, Granite Falls, Greenville Utilities Commission, High Point, Kings Mountain, Kinston, Lexington, Rocky Mount and Tarboro.

### **Service Excellence**

The Service Excellence award recognizes outstanding efforts by the city to communicate with customers through advertisements, online resources, social media or other community-based methods. The award also addresses emergency communications and community public power celebrations.

Albemarle, Benson, Concord, Dallas, Fayetteville PWC, Gastonia, Granite Falls, Greenville Utilities Commission, High Point, Kings Mountain, Kinston, Lexington, Monroe, Morganton, Newton, Rocky Mount, Shelby, Smithfield, Statesville, Tarboro and Wilson.

### **ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc. (ElectriCities), North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 (NCMPA1), North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA)**

- More than 70 North Carolina public power communities, municipally owned and operated electric systems, serve more than 500,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in North Carolina. ElectriCities' members in NC, SC and VA serve more than one million customers. Most have been providing reliable electric service for 100 years or more. ElectriCities is the service organization that provides customer service and safety training, emergency and technical assistance, communications, government relations and legal services to public power communities. ElectriCities provides management services to the state's two municipal Power Agencies: NCMPA1 and NCEMPA. NCMPA1 has 19 member cities in the western part of North Carolina and NCEMPA has 32 member cities in eastern North Carolina. More information about ElectriCities is available at [www.electricities.com](http://www.electricities.com). Follow us on Twitter [@ElectriCitiesNC](https://twitter.com/ElectriCitiesNC) and on Facebook at [ElectriCities of NC](https://www.facebook.com/ElectriCitiesofNC).