

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 131)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, August 7, 2015

- Duke Energy has informed the Town, along with all of its other wholesale power purchase municipal customers, that it wishes to amend our current Agreement(s) to account for the \$1 Billion-plus it will spend over the next 20 years complying with the New State and federal Coal Ash remediation Laws. Duke's position is that it has the right to do this unilaterally by filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), but it would rather sit down and negotiate language that both parties can agree on. To this end, we expect to be in discussions over the next several months to try and reach consensus, but know that this has the potential to add materially to our costs of energy – with the worst possible scenario showing the worst single year to incur as much as a 3% increase due to this factor alone. Stay tuned as we find out more.
- With July having been the first month that the Town made on-line bill payments available to its utility customers, we can now report that 114 account-holders used this feature during July. Given we have done little to publicize or promote this alternative, that number represents clear evidence of customer demand.
- This last week, we met with the staff of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to discuss the highest-priority Transportation projects for the Town of Dallas, as well as to pursue the possibility of re-allocating the \$190,000 in CMAQ sidewalk funding we recently relinquished to the next actual CMAQ sidewalk project for Dallas – in essence keeping the monies here and putting them instead to a higher priority and higher-use project with less match by the Town. Early indications suggest some reason for optimism.
- Electric Director, Doug Huffman and I will be attending the annual Conference of Electricities on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, in Myrtle Beach and will be out of the office as a result. Hence the reason for my producing this report early this week.
- The Packets for the Tuesday, August 11th Board Meeting went out today (Wednesday) and you will note that both the Old Dallas Brewery and Mason Property annexation requests are on the Agenda. Each of these items, along with a proposed sewer use ordinance amendment to potentially compel grease trap installations at mobile home parks, will require a Public Hearing. There are no agenda items related to the proposed restaurant development since we are still finalizing some of the issues and agreement language that I discussed at the last Meeting – particularly associated with the timing of the parking lot construction and how that relates to the final property acquisition. Things are going quite well in this regard, but there is simply more to be accomplished before we can bring the proposed Agreements for final review.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Interim Town Manager