

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Barry Webb, Interim Town Manager

Re: Weekly Report

Date: March 11, 2016

Knowing that Jim Palenick provided a weekly report to you each Friday, and since this was something that I was used to doing in Belmont as well, I am going to continue with those reports during my time here. Mine will look slightly different from the ones you received previously since I am basically using a memo format that I have been accustomed to, but it will remain to be a summary of information that comes to me during the course of the week that I think would be of interest to you.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Chief Buckner has informed me that the Gaston Gazette has published an on-line article today regarding an arrest made last night on Holly Street here in Dallas and the reaction of a crowd witnessing the event. The Chief will be (or already has) contacted each of you to review this with you directly, but he has already indicated to me that the officer involved acted appropriately in this situation. I wanted to mention this in addition to the information you will receive from the Chief as you may well be asked about the incident, and we did not want you to be surprised when you hear it. Normally, if a Gazette article appears on-line one day, it will be in the print edition the next day.

### **RECESSED BOARD MEETING**

As a reminder, the Board of Aldermen will meet at the Fire Department on Monday evening, March 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:00 p.m. This is a continuation of the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, which was recessed until Monday, and is being held to address item 11.A. from that meeting regarding selection of an employee health insurance program for the coming year. Following its review of the submitted proposals, staff met with the Personnel Committee on Thursday afternoon and presented its recommendation on a new plan. This will now be brought forward on Monday for consideration by the full Board.

We will also request that one additional item be added to the agenda on Monday evening. Since Jim Palenick had been representing Dallas on the Gaston County Environmental Review Board, Bill Trudnak has been asked to fill that role now that Jim has left. His appointment requires Board approval, so we will request that you act on his appointment at this meeting.

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR**

As was discussed at the Board meeting on Monday evening, the Town has selected a new Development Services Director, Martine Vaca, who has formally accepted the employment offer. Martine comes to us from Lowell, where she has served as the Planning Director since 2012. In addition to all the normal duties you would expect her to have handled in that role, she has also been very involved in code enforcement, special events, Lowell's newsletter, and work with their farmers' market. Prior to taking the position in Lowell, she had worked for both Mecklenburg and Gaston County in planning and zoning, water quality, and

environmental health, as well as having similar experiences in Florida prior to that. We believe that she brings a great deal of talent and experience to the position here and will be a valuable addition to the staff.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

One item I plan to have as a regular part of these weekly reports will be updates and status reports on the various project that the Town has underway. I do not have that information for this particular report, as my time this first week focused primarily on the Board meeting and the health insurance issue. I am now in the process of meeting with our department heads to get full reviews of their activities and projects and will begin including that information in next week's report. I am also in the process of contacting the consultants we are using on these projects to introduce myself and get their perspectives on these as well.

Since I am completing my first week in Dallas, I just wanted to thank all of you, both elected officials and staff, for making me feel so welcome here. I know I have a lot to learn about the various activities going on here, but everyone has been really helpful in getting me oriented. I look forward to being part of your team in the coming months.