

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Barry Webb, Interim Town Manager

Re: Weekly Report

Date: June 9, 2016

### **ELECTRICAL OUTAGE**

As you are all aware, we experienced another major power outage affecting most of the Town this past Tuesday afternoon that initially resulted from a faulty transformer. Our staff began working to restore power as soon as the problem was known, and addressing the situation ended up involving assistance from Duke Energy staff and a spare part from the Town of Maiden. Full power was restored to the Town around 4:30 p.m. after being out for approximately two hours.

During a discussion with Duke Energy representatives at the substation site at the conclusion of this incident, they stated that one of their switches had burned out and would have to be replaced. This will require shutting power to the Town down for a couple of hours while this work takes place. It was indicated that this repair would likely be scheduled on a Sunday morning around 4:00 a.m. to ensure the least disruption to the citizens as possible. A date for this work and shutdown has not yet been set, but we will make work to everyone aware of it ahead of time once we are given that information.

### **COAL ASH ISSUE FOLLOW-UP**

In last week's report, it was noted that the NC General Assembly was considering re-establishment of a Coal Ash Management Commission to address issues related to the closure of Duke Energy's coal ash ponds following Governor McCrory's disbanding of the original commission. This week, both the NC Senate and House passed legislation to restore the Coal Ash Management Commission. Governor McCrory has indicated that he would veto this legislation, but the margin of votes by which this legislation passed in both houses would be enough to override a veto if the same voting pattern held. All of this has a bearing on the presentation about the coal ash cost recovery process that you will hear at the special Board meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>

### **VOTING SITE**

In response to a question raised earlier this week by Alderwoman Morrow, Maria Stroup contracted the Director of the Gaston County Board of Elections regarding the use of the Civic Building as a voting site. It was reported that, while the recent primary voting was held at the Citizens Resource Center, voting for the general election in November would move back to the Civic Building. Accessibility issues that had been raised by the Board of Elections have all been resolved, so they have decided to again use the Civic Center as a polling place.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

Trade Street Intersection Improvements Project: As you can see from driving through downtown, the erection of the mast arm poles has taken place at both the Trade/Gaston Street and Trade/Holland Street intersections. In addition to electrical work for moving the signals to the new mast arms, there is still some concrete work remaining for Tarpon Construction to complete, and some change orders pertaining to that work appears on the agenda for your June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

CMAQ Sidewalk Project: Bill Trudnak, Johnny Denton, and I met this past on Monday to review the steps that needed to be taken to develop a new CMAQ application combining what are currently two separate projects into one. During June, Johnny Denton will be preparing updated cost estimate figures and developing a new project map so that we can file the CMAQ application with the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO for approval at its July meeting. We will also have a resolution endorsing the new application on the agenda of your July 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Town Hall Paring Lot Improvements Project

The approved contract for this project has now been executed by Mayor Coleman and Jeremy Falls of Cedar Hill Grading, and copies have now been provided to both the contractor and the design firm, Alfred Benesch and Company. We have requested that Benesch hold off issuing a Notice to Proceed to Cedar Hill until we resolve the issue involving the relocation of the AT&T lines. Doug Huffman is still working to contact the appropriate representative at AT&T to get this addressed.

**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES REMINDER**

As noted in last week's report, the first show in this year's Summer Concert Series will be held at 6:30 p.m. this Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> when Layla McCalla performs at the Courthouse Square.

**ABSENCES**

I wanted to make you all aware that I will be out of the office this Friday (June 10) and all of next week (June 13-17) for a family vacation. I will have my cell phone (704-616-7481) with me throughout that period if anyone needs to reach me, or I can be contacted through my personal email (bwebb8284@gmail.com).