

Jim Palenick

From: Jim Palenick [jpalenick@dallasnc.net]
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 2:48 PM
To: 'Rick Coleman'; 'ronniemorrow@att.net'; 'JOHN BEATY'; 'Martin, Scott'; 'huggybarber@att.net'; 'hoylewithers@yahoo.com'
Cc: 'mstroupe@dallasnc.net'; 'David Kahler'; 'dhuffman@dallasnc.net'; 'gbuckner@dallasnc.net'; 'slambert@dallasnc.net'; 'Bill Trudnak'; 'A Martin'; 'J. Thomas Hunn'
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Report (#20)

Mayor & Board of Aldermen:

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Report for the Week-ended Friday, March 1, 2013.**

- We were confronted this week with a rather alarming phone contact from representatives of the State Commerce Department regarding our \$750,000 CDBG Waterline reconstruction Grant. Specifically, while I was gone, our Grant coordinator and her supervisor called to inform us that we had missed the deadline imposed for "Release of Funds" and were, as a result in jeopardy of having the Grant Funds "de-obligated". James Luster, our contracted Grant Administrator with COG was working to gain an exemption from the "8-step process" required to clear the project for environmental issues because it was merely the replacement, within existing areas, of underground waterlines. There is, however, a small portion of the project boundary which falls within a federally designated flood plain, and this triggers the need for the 8-step process. Attempts to potentially redesign that portion of the project to avoid the flood plain issue were not feasible or cost-effective. In his efforts to assess and deal with these possibilities, Mr. Luster was unable to meet the deadline to achieve the "Release of Funds". He (Mr. Luster) has since spoken at length with the Commerce Department Staff and has filed a request for extension to fully comply, which, he assures me will now be met. To that end we have since published a notice in the Gaston Gazette (appearing 2/28/13) notifying the Public of No significant Impact and triggering a 15-day comment/objection to release of funds period which, in turn, expires March 15th. When the documentation of these efforts are returned to the Commerce Staff immediately upon conclusion, we will be back on track. Everyone is now monitoring this very closely to be absolutely sure there are no mis-steps.
- I understand that at the Budget Work Session this week there was direction provided that a correspondence be drafted to the County Board of Commissioners objecting to the Commissioners newly-adopted policy of Collecting a ½% fee (of property tax revenues collected) beginning with Fiscal-year 2014; then escalating to 1% in FY2015 and 1 and ½ % in FY2016. In that regard, I also noticed that the County Board had amended their Thursday February 28th Meeting agenda to add, among several items, a discussion of actually imposing a ¾% fee for FY2014 –actually greater than the earlier-announced ½% fee. I don't know if this would be "in addition to", or "in place of" the three-phase plan; nor do I know if they have yet taken formal action to make the change. In any event, I will be glad to author the letter desired by the Board of Aldermen in this regard.
- At the upcoming, March 12th Regular Board Meeting we will have a presentation on the Courthouse and Town Square Plaza proposed renovation plans from the Architect and Landscape architect, so that, based on the Board's direction, we can thereafter soon finalize the overall total construction plans and documents.
- In honor of "Sunshine Week", (March 10th-16th) the Gaston Gazette is requesting that Dallas, along with other County municipalities, provide details from the December, 2012 billing period of all use of Town Credit cards, along with how many such cards are issued; to whom; for what purposes; and with what restrictions. I am sure this is largely a result of the abuses we have seen recently in Cherryville and Belmont. We will be more than happy to comply, and anticipate no concerns.
- Based on some preliminary research into the history of the Courthouse building and Town Square, we have found that the deed transferring the property from the County to Dallas was recorded on June 10th, 1914. We are further getting an actual copy of the deed to determine if there are any references to actual funds, if any, that the town paid the County for the acquisition. In current County GIS records there is no "sales price" listed, suggesting that either no money changed hands, or that perhaps it was so long ago that no records were available to verify same. We will let you know as we find any additional information.

- Based on a formal written request from the Assistant Chief of the Dallas Town Rescue Squad, I have issued an access key to the Civic Center Building to Mark Rider (Treasurer of the Rescue Squad) since there exists no handicap-accessible entrance to the rescue Squad, but rather only by way of the Civic center Building entrance. This will be for access by Mr. Rider only. All other access is controlled by the Police Department.

Thank You,

Jim Palenick
Interim Town Manager