

Jim Palenick

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ent: Friday, October 05, 2012 12:08 PM
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Cc: 'Maria Stroupe'; 'btrudnak@dallasnc.net'; 'David Kahler'; 'Doug Huffman'; 'slambert@dallasnc.net'; 'A Martin'; 'Gary Buckner'
Subject: Weekly Report for Week Ending October 5, 2012

Mayor & Board of Aldermen:

Please accept the following as my **Town Manager Report**; For the week-ended Friday, October 5th, 2012:

This week the Town received official notification from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), that the Town's two (2) narrow-band radio licenses, maintained by the Police and Public Work's Departments, for organizational communications, were each renewed for a period of ten (10) years. The Police Department/Public safety License (call sign KS7755) now extends through September 30th, 2022, and is valid for service anywhere in Gaston County; while the Public Work's License (call sign WPBG768) now extends through December 9th, 2022, and is valid for service anywhere within an 8-mile radius of Town Hall. Police Chief Buckner spear-headed the effort to make sure these two communications systems received re-licensing approval prior to their expiration on September 30th (Public safety), and December 9th (Public Works, Electric, all others) respectively.

Also, effective October 1st, the Town Electric Department has just completed the change-out and installation of seventy-four (74), new decorative glass globes on the street-lamp poles around the Town Square and Downtown. The globes on Church Street, in front of the Police Department; as well as those in front of the Holy Communion Church were not placed since those locations were more-recently installed and not possessed of the same cloudy tarnish and dull appearance. All of the older globes will be maintained in inventory and we will be looking to see if we can achieve a "cleaning or treatment" process to return them to their original appearance and effectiveness. The Electric Department also just achieved the complete change-out and installation of each of the six (6) red, 4-way traffic-signal flashers at: Brookgreen & Lewis; Maple & Main; College & Main; Pine & Carpenter; College & Carlton; and Holland & Church Streets. Virtually all of these units were obsolete and maintenance intensive. The new units are now state-of-the art LED's that look better, function perfectly, and will require little if any maintenance and use much less electricity.

The Town's Auditors (Collis & Associates) are on-site today and are beginning Their efforts to fully examine the Town's finances for the Fiscal-year-ended 6/30/12. They are likely to spend 3-5 days working here in the office and then an additional 4-6 weeks back at their location before ultimately producing and releasing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

You will recall that earlier this year we had reported that the installation of the added in-house, facility-to-facility fiber network would allow us to eliminate a number of expensive AT&T "T-1" phone connection lines and with them save as much as \$2,000 a month in the process. We then further indicated that the change-over had been completed, the AT&T lines were eliminated, and the result was no discernible, negative change to service or function. The only thing left was to see the first post-elimination bills from AT&T to see the actual savings. I am now pleased to report that this week the first of several expected, lower bills was received and the actual real decrease (savings) on the main junction account (between the August and September bills) was **\$2,502.63** (\$3,473.96 vs. \$971.33)That is for just one month, with yet some additional smaller savings on other bills that will be added to it.

Last week I had reported that we were in the process of acquiring and installing a number of new, verifiably-safe play-structure elements within Jagers, Cloninger, and the Franklin Gym Park areas. At the time, I had suggested and believed that we would be installing some of the components received from the Gastonia YMCA at Cloninger Park, assuming that they would prove fully safe as a re-install. Unfortunately, after Anne Martin, Bill Trudnak, and myself met on-site with a

recreation professional from Cunningham Recreation in Charlotte, we found that there simply was no feasible way to keep and install the YMCA components and know that they would be safe. As such, we will instead be purchasing and installing a new play structure for Cloninger Park precisely equal to that which will be going into Jagers Park, as well as new swingsets for the Gym outdoor play area. All elements will be installed under the supervision of a certified Gametime professional and will be state-of-the-art as to safety and reliability. We continue to expect to accomplish all the installations over the next several weeks. Each of the new play-structures will be approximately \$7,000, while the swingsets will be around \$3,500. Installation, using our forces, but supervised by the Gametime representative shouldn't exceed \$800. Anne is also replacing two of the slides on the existing, Large play structure near the Gym, and as a result of all these efforts we will have the knowledge that every single element of outdoor play equipment in place will be either brand new and state of the art, or rehabbed in a manner fully compliant with accepted safety and reliability practices. WE may yet be able to accomplish this within our existing budget, or we may need a minor Budget amendment. We won't honestly know until later in the fiscal year.

We are hosting a Flu shot clinic at Town Hall on October 17th, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon, without cost, for any Town employee, official, or covered dependent enrolled under the Town Health care plan. No appointment is necessary, however, it is preferred if expected participants notify Maria so that an accurate advance count can be made to assure adequate supplies of vaccine.

Remember to mark on your calendars that this year's Town employee cook-out will be held Thursday, November 15th at the Warehouse beginning at 1:00 p.m. As always, the Board is invited to attend. That is the day that employee bonus checks will be distributed, assuming the Board approves same as detailed on the consent agenda for Tuesday's Board Meeting.

The North Carolina, "Mountains to the Coast" Bicycle tour, undaunted by periods of heavy rain, made a successful stop at the Courthouse square on Tuesday morning between 9:45 a.m. and noon. Of the total 1200 registered participants, it was estimated that at least 800-1,000 riders actually stopped here in Dallas and enjoyed the Town's ambiance and hospitality. Anne Martin arranged for a Town-provided tent, supplemental snacks, and Porta-johns, and Anne and Patrick McSwain, along with other volunteers manned the busy tents where riders stopped to refresh and get out of the rain. Many positive comments echoed throughout the morning about just how enjoyable and welcoming the Dallas stop was.

Just a reminder, the Town Hall will be officially closed on Election Day, Tuesday, November, 6th.

Finally, expect at least one concerned resident from Summey Knolls Subdivision to be in attendance and speak at Tuesday's Board Meeting. The topic of traffic congestion on Halloween will be the subject, and the plea for some kind of Town assistance regarding access and possible emergencies will be brought forward. You all may wish to think about possible viable solutions, and we as a staff will support in whatever means is deemed appropriate.

Thank You,

Jim Palenick
Interim Town Manager

Mayor
Coleman

Aldermen
John Beaty
Allen Huggins
Scott Martin
Darlene Morrow
Hoyle Withers

Town Manager
Interim James Palenick

Town Clerk
Maria Stroupe

Town Attorney
Pennie M. Thrower

Public Works
Bill Trudnak

Electrical
J. Doug Huffman

Police Chief
Gary Buckner

Planning
David Kahler

Fire Chief
Steve Lambert

Recreation
Anne Martin

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October 2, 2012

Mr. Palenick:

As of October 1, we have changed out 74 globes on the decorative lights around the square. None were changed on Church Street, in front of the new Police Dept. or in front of Holy Communion Church, because these were recently installed and not tarnished or dull looking.

We also have all (6) of the new LED 4 way flashers installed and working at the following locations:

Brookgreen & Lewis
Maple & Main
College & Main
Pine & Carpenter
College & Carlton
Holland & Church



