

Jim Palenick

From: Jim Palenick <jpalenick@dallasnc.net>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2014 1:43 PM
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Cc: 'Maria Stroupe'; 'gbuckner@dallasnc.net'; 'Steve Lambert'; 'Bill Trudnak'; 'Doug Huffman'; 'A Martin'; 'jkiser@dallasnc.net'; 'J. Thomas Hunn'
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly report (#94)

Mayor & Board of Aldermen(Women):

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Weekly Report for the Week-Ended, Friday, October 10, 2014.**

- Electricities representatives announced this week that the Town of Dallas has been named a winner in the 2014 "Public Power Awards of Excellence", within the categories of "Energy Efficiency", "Financial Stability", and "Service Excellence". This recognition is now becoming somewhat routine in the fact that the Town's Electric Utility has been a recurring, multi-year winner of these awards for excellence. A job well done as recognized by the State's organization for municipal electric providers.
- Over the course of the last several weeks it has become evident that the Electric Department's brush-chipper, which is in constant, heavy use by the tree-crew, will not last the budget year despite recent repairs. As such, and given its age, I have authorized the Department to put off the planned purchase of a stump-grinder, which had been budgeted for FY2014-15 at \$46,105, and instead purchase a new, replacement brush-chipper at approximately \$35,000. In turn, for the Budget-year FY2015-16, we will look to again budget the full cost of a stump-grinder.
- The construction of the concrete slab and erection of the new storage/warehouse building at the public works yard has been delayed as we have worked to find a reputable and skilled bidder/contractor who could offer us a price within our budget for the job. We have exhausted all avenues and have found what we believe are now the most competitive bids by contractors with requisite skills. The total price for completion of the work, however, will still remain somewhat above the \$100,000 total that we budgeted for purchase of the building, site preparation, concrete, and erection. The primary reason for this is that we under-estimated the cost of concrete—which has been rising as the economy and demand has improved. In any event, we will wind up well under budget on the capital outlay for the substation construction in this year's budget, so, since this expense is also a capital outlay cost within Electric, we will not go over budget in this Fund in the aggregate. As such, we are moving forward with the work and should see the concrete go down in the next several weeks with building erection to follow immediately thereafter.
- I will be attending the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) Yearly Convention in Greensboro beginning Sunday night and extending through Tuesday afternoon. I will return to Town in time to attend the Tuesday, October 14th Board of Aldermen Meeting in its entirety however.
- At the Board's next-scheduled Work Session, which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28th, we hope to have a discussion on the Management and rental of the Courthouse Building and Grounds following completion of the renovation/preservation project. We have been speaking with the management of the Gaston County Museum about a partnership agreement whereby their staff, who are already engaged in the rental of their facilities, could take on the additional duties of renting the Town Square property and rental proceeds would be shared. We are hoping that the Museum staff will be available to make a detailed presentation to that effect at the October Work Session. We may also talk about the Town's Website at that meeting and our plans to re-make it with a new website creator and web-hosting service—one which allows maintenance and updates, as well as increased inter-activity, in a more user-friendly manner.

Thank You,

James M. (Jim) Palenick
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