

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 143)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, November 13 2015

- Following Tuesday's Board Meeting actions, I promptly provided County Commission Board Chair Philbeck and the Gaston County Board of Commissioners with a certified copy of the Resolution requesting \$300,000 in Caromont Lease Proceed Revenues for the Long Creek Sewer Line Inter-connect project. County Manager Mathers, as well as City of Gastonia Mayor John Bridgeman were also copied on the correspondence forwarding the Board's Actions and describing the project. We also provided the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) with a certified copy of the Resolution approving the Reallocation of Federal CMAQ sidewalk funds for the new NC279-275 sidewalk/crosswalk project.
- As part of the Budgeted improvements to the Dennis Franklin Gym, we were able to complete the installation, this week, of a series of first-ever metal hand-railings for the bleacher aisles. We were able to afford this important, but-otherwise-unbudgeted safety project because the work currently being completed to fully replace the basketball floor and install a comprehensive new, HVAC system, came in well under budget.
- The Town's new Christmas Nativity Scene which the Board authorized in this year's budget is set to be installed on the Town Square grounds, along with a series of secular holiday symbols/figurines just prior to the scheduled, "Carols on the Square" event on Friday, December 4th. A local Charlotte area news reporter has inquired about the installation, so it is likely that it will again garner a certain level of attention regionally by those on both sides of the debate over the public display of such symbols. Because of our plans for the display of the secular symbols in immediate proximity to the Nativity, we believe that our display should withstand any legal challenges, given the current state of judicial precedent.
- Please note that Thursday, November 19th, at 1:00 p.m. in the apparatus bays of the Fire Hall, the Town will once again hold our traditional employee recognition "cook-out" for all Town employees. All Board members are invited and encouraged to attend. Employees will receive their budgeted, Holiday bonus checks at the event. This year the bonus amounted to \$600.00 for each full-time employee, and \$200.00 for each part-time and less-than-one-year-tenured employee, pre-tax.
- The Planning Board will be meeting next week, Thursday, November 19th, at 7:00 p.m. and will be conducting three, separate Public Hearings. The first Hearing will be to consider the establishment of I-2, General Industrial Zoning for the Durkee Lane property recently annexed; the second Hearing will consider adding the definition of a "microbrewery" to the Town Zoning Code (also pursuant to the Durkee Lane property); and finally, the third Hearing will take up the issue of a request for a Special Use Permit for the SCI Towers submittal to erect a new, 199'-tall,

cellular monopole structure northeast of the intersection of East Webb and south College Streets. Each of the resultant, three recommendations made by the Planning Board on these matters will then come to the Board of Aldermen for final action in December.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Interim Town Manager