

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 150)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, January 8, 2016

- Earlier this week Fire Chief Lambert received a \$2,500 Grant Award through the local Walmart Grant Program geared to localized, community outreach. The funds will be used for the acquisition and distribution of fire prevention materials for Dallas area school children. Police Chief Buckner has also made application for a similar (maximum \$2,500) level of funding through this same program and if successful will use the proceeds for needed (and otherwise- unbudgeted) equipment.
- Following the earlier enactment of the Business Registration Ordinance, we have been developing a list of approximately 150 business or professional entities, existing and/or doing business within Dallas, who we believe will be required to apply for and receive a Business registration certificate under the terms of the Ordinance. Letters with an explanation of the ordinance, the \$35 yearly fee, and the application process, are being mailed out today and should be arriving at all the addressees by no later than mid-week. From there, we have given subject businesses until March 1, 2016 to complete their application and remit their yearly fee. I have attached a copy of one of the letters herewith for your use and review.
- At the January 12th Board Meeting, we will look to schedule a date and time (well prior to the scheduled Board Budget Retreat on Saturday, January 30th) that we can provide the Full Board a tour of the Town-owned Building at 130 W. trade Street. We will handle this under "Manager's Report".
- Also, at the January 12th Board Meeting, we are going to be discussing a request from The Gaston Arts Council for some financial support toward their traditional June, Art, Music and cultural event, "Art in the Park". To this end, we have noted that there remains approximately \$17,000 (of the budgeted \$30,000) within the line-item for "Town-Sponsored Events", so some financial support is a possibility. Further, however, we would like to also discuss (copy attached) an e-mail the Mayor has received from Jason Luker, Interim Director of the Gaston County Museum of Art & History, in which he lays out the possibility for the town sponsoring a significantly-upgraded version of the former "Blues-out-Back" concert series in which the cost would be a good deal more, but for which much larger crowds would be generated and attention given. This proposal came out of an earlier discussion the Mayor and I had with Mr. Luker inquiring about what the Museum might do to partner with the Town on bringing more music and entertainment events to the Town Square. So, now the full Board needs to review the proposal and determine if you all wish to support it and provide direction for moving forward.
- We have been receiving applications for the open position of Development Services Director throughout the week, and I hope to begin conducting interviews with promising candidates

sometime next week. There appears to be at least 2 or 3 who merit such further consideration. As you recall, Mr. Kiser has tentatively set January 30th as his last day with the Town, so I am looking to identify a single finalist and make an offer of employment as soon as possible.

- The new, picnic shelter at Cloninger Park is now complete following what had been a somewhat-delayed construction due to the multiple rain events. The final touch will be to install the picnic tables – which we plan to schedule very soon.
- Also this week, we received the final sign-off on our County building permit for the new warehouse building at the public utilities yard complex and were, as a result, able to take down all of the Christmas decorations and store them properly inside. If, in fact, anyone had been wondering why the decorations weren't taken down sooner, it was because we needed the occupancy permit for the building before we could utilize it for storage. We are now in the process of fully completing the remaining exterior landscaping and clean-up around the building, as well as finishing some further meter-room modifications inside the building which will allow the meter readers to have their base of operations therein as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Town Manager