

TO: Mayor Craig and Town Council
FROM: Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager
DATE: March 8, 2019
RE: Council Report for March 4-8, 2019

- **Washington Crossing Connector** – Town council tabled further action on this connector to Green Springs Road after being unable to negotiate an agreement on right of way needed for this street extension.
- **East Main Street Flooding** – Staff has included funding in the upcoming draft budget to update an earlier engineering study for improvements to storm drainage on East Main Street. Once this is completed staff can begin the process of seeking funding to implement the recommendations from the study. Property acquisition has been put off until this report is available.
- **Meadows Historic Property** – Staff met with consultants to begin laying out plans for required historic interpretive signs near this building. The Memorandum of Understanding requires these be developed and installed. Staff plans to reach out to the community for input into development of this part of the project and to seek pictures for use. Staff also toured the building and is looking at options for adaptive reuse of the building. This includes potentially relocating outdoor recreation offices and a catering kitchen.
- **Washington County Sewer Agreement** – Staff met with CHA to discuss industrial waste and options for language in the upcoming amendment. A meeting is scheduled for March 12 with the Service Authority to draft a document for approval by council and the Board. Target remains April 9 for a joint meeting to adopt and sign the agreement.
- **Fields-Penn** – Several staff members toured the building to look at feasibility for making it a Visitor Center. Staff is also looking at other groups that share space with Tourism.
- **Green Springs Road** – Subject to weather the road project should reach substantial completion by the end of the month. The contractor is installing bases for the street lights and will need intermittent lane closures on Cummings Street over the next two weeks.
- **The Meadows** – Construction on two buildings got underway with steel frames erected. The review of Holiday Inn is at a point where a building permit can be requested.
- **Urban Trail** – Final construction should be completed within the next two weeks. The Grand Opening is set for April 12.
- **Park Street** – Right of way plans are under review by VDOT. Staff will be contacting T&L concerning scheduling project monthly meetings.
- **Plum Alley Sewer Project** – Bids will be opened on March 8.
- **Recycling** – Staff is still investigating options, but no short term solution is in sight. Staff may contact Washington County and Bristol to investigate potential joint solutions.
- **Exit 14 Project** – The contractor has started work again.
- **Russell Road Project** – The RFP is being finalized with construction to be completed by June.
- **South Church Street Project - Repair** of the sidewalk and wall are moving forward. Brick is on order and work can be completed once this arrives on site.
- **Bridge Inspections** – Staff has been working to complete the inspections. Painting on the underside of the bridge on Cummings Street will be needed.

- **GIS Position** – Interviews for this vacancy will be completed on March 11 with the position filled shortly after that.
- **Smart Scale Projects** – Staff is waiting on funding for West Main/Porterfield Hwy and West Main/Jonesboro applications. Both of these projects will be in line for award by the CTB.
- **Mustert Ground Path** – All DHR approvals are in hand and the project can be scheduled for construction. The project will be completed by the end of June, including directional signs and the new parking lot. The parking lot will become the trailhead for both the Urban Path and the Overmountain Victory Trail.
- **Retirement** – HVAC installation will be in May with other renovations to come in FY20 with the new budget.
- **Humphries Park** – The retaining wall project will begin in May.
- **Budget** – Council held review meetings with Department Heads regarding budget requests. Work continues on budget development with a draft to be provided in April.
- **Creepert Trail** – Plans are underway to install three new memorial benches along the trail. Two emergency call boxes will be replaced along the trail. A memorial tree will be replaced March in the Watauga sector.
- **Eberhart Park** – The Garden Club is beginning the annual clean up. This year a memorial tree will be planted and a memorial bench installed.
- **Fairview Farm** – Draft contracts are being reviewed by OGATA, Fairview Foundation, and the property owner. These will be submitted to council for approval in April. A cataloging is being done of war memorabilia stored in the cabin.
- **Watauga Project** – Bid opening is set for March 25 and award is scheduled for the April council meeting.
- **Historic District Grants** – Applications have been submitted for DHR grants for the Historic District Architectural Survey and the Depot Square Building Historic District Survey/Nomination Grants.
- **Main Street** – Work continues on development of FY20 Plan for Abingdon Main Street. Draft of the document will be presented at the March work session for discussion. This will be attached to the Agreement as part of the contract. Staff will have this contract and the Virginia Main Street contract on the April agenda for approval.
- **Agricultural Lease** – The Harmony Lane (Sappo) property is being placed on a lease for mowing, fence clearing, and crop production. This will be finalized by the April council meeting.
- **Noise Ordinance** – Staff is working on a proposed amendment to the sign ordinance concerning mixed use districts. This will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.