

TO: Mayor Craig and Town Council
FROM: Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager
DATE: March 29, 2019
RE: Council Report for March 25-29, 2019

- **VPDES Stormwater Permit** – The existing Industrial Stormwater General Permit will expire June 30, 2019. Staff has received the renewal application and will be completing the form and submitting for renewal of the permit for the Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility.
- **Exit 17 Project** – VDOT has submitted plans to the Department of Historic Resource for additional test pits in several areas where additional temporary construction easements will be required. This is part of the Phase I study requirements for this project.
- **Plumb Alley Sewer** – Construction is anticipated to begin within two weeks on this project. Construction should take about 30 days to complete. Staff will keep council and the public informed as the construction date gets closer.
- **Planning Commission** – The Planning Commission approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 560 West Main Street, 872 East Main Street, and 608 West Main Street. All three building owners will be doing façade improvements, partially funded by the Façade Improvement Grant Program established by the town.
- **Green Springs Road** – The work is progressing on this project with the break in the weather. A new timeline was provided showing opening for temporary traffic May 17 and open to all traffic July 3. Staff is working with the contractor to try and move the schedule forward to late June.
- **East Main Street Drainage**- Steel plates are being priced for repair of the culvert cut on East Main Street.
- **VDOT Projects (HSIP)** – The Commonwealth Transportation Board will award Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP) at their April meeting. Abingdon has four pending projects, including West Main Street Sidewalks.
- **East Main HSIP** – A previously awarded project is scheduled to start within two months. This project replaces older handicap sidewalk grants with new standard ones. This project is 100% VDOT funded with no town match.
- **Creeper Trail** – Installation of benches is complete. Three call boxes will be replaced following testing of these units. The Memorial Tree has been planted. Trail resurfacing is underway with 8 miles completed.
- **Watauga Project** – Bids were opened on this project and came in above estimate. Finance is working to adjust funding budgeted for this project. Award of bid is on the April 1 agenda, subject to VDOT approval.
- **Mower Lease** – Two new mowers have been added to this lease agreement with Meade Tractor.
- **Town Sign and Seals** – Staff is looking into new procedures and policy for adding to the existing sign at Main and Cummings. Once the policy is developed it will be sent to council for approval.
- **Events** – April 12 for Urban Path Dedication
 - April 13 for Earth Day
 - April 20 for Creeper Marathon
 - April 27 for Creeper Fest

- **Washington County Service Authority** – The amendment for the sewer agreement is in final review. Council will discuss this on April 1 with a joint adoption set for April 9th at the county administration building
- **Ribbon Cutting** – Congratulations on the opening of the new Edward Jones Financial Services Office.
- **The Meadows** – Chuck Banner and I met with Davenport to review and update revenue projections for the commercial development. Due to weather related delays extending the timeframe for the project and with additional information becoming available for occupancy, staff felt the earlier projections need to be updated. Staff plans to complete this process and have a review available for April 25 at the work session. Work is moving ahead with several buildings that are under construction with fall 2019 completion schedules.
- **Exit 17 McDonalds** – Plans have been submitted for a major remodeling of the McDonald’s at Exit 17. Staff is reviewing these prior to issuance of permits.
- **Tax Credits** – Staff met with Spectrum Design to discuss and train on the use of Tax Credits for assisting in the renovation of historic property.
- **VML If I Were a Mayor Contest** - The Virginia Municipal League (VML) has announced the statewide winner and seven regional winners of the annual “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest. The contest, hosted by VML, drew hundreds of entries from seventh graders throughout the state. The challenge to the students was to describe what they would do if they were mayor of their hometown. Congratulations to Region 1 winner **Virginia Elizabeth Stockner** of E.B. Stanley Middle School in Abingdon. Winning essays can be viewed at the following site <https://www.vml.org/education/essay-contest/>
- **Town Manager Search** – The town council will make an announcement on April 1 at the regular council meeting concerning the hiring of the new town manager.