

TO: Mayor Craig and Town Council
FROM: James Morani, Town Manager
DATE: June 28, 2019
RE: Town Manager Report for June 28, 2019

- **The Meadows** – Interior work on Food City is progressing. Several building plans for the retail shops have been submitted. Holiday Inn Express will start slab work next week. Pal's Sudden Service COA has been approved pending the decision of the Town Council on July 1.
- **Green Spring Road** – Paving operations will take place this weekend. Weather permitting, substantial completion will be prior to July 4 and open to traffic the following week.
- **Sports Complex** – Earth moving operations continue.
- **Park Street Improvements** – The Town is waiting for authorization from VDOT to move forward with the public hearing.
- **Fields Penn House** – Staff continues to work with Bundy Architecture to secure bids.
- **Muster Grounds/Retirement** – The parking lot is complete. HVAC at Retirement is complete.
- **Blight Removal** – The Public Works Department demolished a fire-damaged house at 181 B Street. The lot has been cleared, graded, and seeded. It is expected a lien will be filed for the Town's demolition expenses.
- **Plumb Alley Sewer Replacement** – The sewer line has been replaced. Since excavation has occurred, it was decided to upgrade the lateral sewer connection to Town Hall. Paving of the area will be completed by the fall.
- **Watauga Project** – Mobilization and on-site storage is underway.
- **Trestle Study** – The RFP for engineering services has been advertised. Responses are due July 19.
- **Little League State Championship** – Kevin Worley and his staff continues to work with the Department of Public Works the volunteers to prepare for the 11-12 year-old Little League State Tournament, which Abingdon will host from July 17-24. Some of the preparation work has consisted of improving field conditions and repairing storm water drainage.
- **Veterans Park Restroom** – Construction is progressing. The Veterans Memorial Park Board has recently received additional donations to help complete the project.
- **Historic District Entrance Corridor Overlay District** – The Planning Commission reviewed a draft of an amendment to the overlay district. Based on comments from the Planning Commission, staff will present a revised draft at its July 22nd meeting.
- **Thursday Jams** – The June 27th event was a huge success with over 1,200 in attendance. A representative from Virginia Tourism was present and introduced the opening band.
- **Washington County Agricultural Tour** – The purpose of this tour, which I attended on June 17, was to showcase the county's largest industry. The tour consisted of visits to Highlands Dairy, Big M Farm Supply, Indoor Farms, and Copenhaver Brothers Farm.
- **Virginia Highlands Festival** – Several Town officials attended a preview event for the upcoming festival.

- **Grant Opportunity** – Tonya Triplett has been assisting VHSBI on the preparation of an SBA Workforce Development grant. If successful, funds from the grant will be used to train workforce for, but not limited to, participants in the Washington County Business Challenge.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update** – Staff attended the Rotary meeting on June 21 to gather public comment for the Comprehensive Plan. Review of the Visions and Goals portion of the comprehensive plan is ongoing.
- **Zoning Ordinance Update** – The Planning Commission reviewed a draft of the revised sign code at its June 24th meeting. Land uses for zoning districts have been updated and are in the final review process.
- **New Businesses** – Town officials attended ribbon cuttings for Little Downtown Donuts, Habitat for Humanity, National Bank, and Powell Valley National Bank.