

TO: Mayor Craig and Town Council
FROM: James Morani, Town Manager
DATE: August 2, 2019
RE: Town Manager Report for August 2, 2019

- **The Meadows** – Work on Food City continues. The Planning Commission approved a COA for a Pizza Hut carry-out/delivery restaurant. Pal's Sudden Service plans are under review. Several retailers for the shell buildings have submitted plans.
- **Green Spring Road** – The only major items remaining are the traffic signal pole and street lights.
- **Sports Complex** – Site preparation work continues.
- **Park Street Improvements** – The Town continues to wait for authorization from VDOT to conduct the official public hearing. Right-of-way plats have been prepared and can be presented to property owners after the public hearing.
- **Fields Penn House** – On July 18, the Town Council authorized work for the stabilization and tie-rod/washer system. Contracts for these projects are being prepared.
- **Retirement** – Interior renovations continue.
- **College/Church Street One-way Conversion** – This project will commence after the Virginia Highlands Festival.
- **Sanitary Sewer System Inflow and Infiltration Study** – Flow monitoring of selected areas are currently ongoing. The Town is expected to have a deliverable by October.
- **East Main Street Sidewalk Connection** – Staff has reached out to the property owner and will schedule a meeting as soon as she is available.
- **Engineering On-Call Services** – Drafts of RFPs for general services, traffic, and sanitary sewer are being finalized. These will be advertised the week of August 5.
- **Truck Traffic** – Public Works management met with VDOT officials to discuss solutions to limit truck traffic through downtown. During these discussions, the Town learned that Main Street was not listed as a restricted truck route in the VDOT database. Once this is corrected, it should have an effect on limiting truck traffic through the Town. Staff will monitor the situation and take further necessary actions, such as pursue opportunities for additional signage.
- **Pickleball Courts** – Staff is in the process of preparing requests for proposals. The goal is to have the project out for bid within the week. Bids will be presented to the Town Council at the September 3rd meeting.
- **Watauga Project** – A progress meeting was held on July 30. The contractor is ahead of schedule. The next phase consists of grading and laying the gravel bed for the roadway.
- **Trestle Study** – Seven bids were received for this project. Staff is in the process of reviewing bids and on August 6 will select the firms to be interviewed.
- **Trestle Pressure Washing** – Pressure washing on trestle decks continues. Trestle 9-15 are currently being addressed.
- **Russell Road Pedestrian Signalization** – Public Works will install immediately upon delivery of equipment.
- **Veterans Park Restroom** – Construction is progressing. The next phase is to install partitions and fixtures. Staff over seeded and placed straw at the site.

- **Historic District Entrance Corridor Overlay District** – The Planning Commission reviewed a second draft of an amendment to the overlay district. This will be presented to the Town Council at the August 15th work session for discussion.
- **Downtown Revitalization** – Tonya Triplett and I had an on-site tour with Brian Reed from Mount Rogers Planning District Commission to discuss a potential downtown redevelopment project.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update** – The Visions and Goals draft has been posted on the website. The next phase will focus on land use and transportation. A public meeting will likely be scheduled in September.
- **Zoning Ordinance Update** – The Planning Commission reviewed a draft of the revised sign code at its June 24th meeting. The Town Attorney is currently reviewing the document. Land uses for zoning districts have been updated and are in the final review process.
- **Media Coverage** – A feature spot about Abingdon appeared on Knoxville TV. Tourism staff helped coordinate the interviews. The video can be seen at <https://www.knoxvilleweekend.com/knoxville-weekends-road-tripn-abingdon-virginia/>.