

Glance Ahead- Upcoming City and Community Wide Activities

Events listed below are either a city event or a special event permit was issued:

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** Monday, January 15th. City offices closed.
- **HPC Meeting:** Wednesday, January 17th – **CANCELLED**

City Wide

- City Manager and City Attorney have been working to finalize the proposed agreement for the lease of Kafer Park for a summer collegiate baseball league. This information will be presented at the January 23rd meeting.
- The City will launch a new anti-litter campaign in March with a new logo and tagline. Public Works, Parks & Recreation, and Administration have been working on a plan to address litter throughout the city along with an outreach campaign for the community. The plan includes an active annual campaign that will stretch from March through October; regularly scheduled board/city staff cleanup opportunities; public outreach to encourage the community to schedule their own regular neighborhood cleanups; educational and informational materials to share with schools, at city events, at cleanup sites, in customer areas of city buildings, etc.; new signage for city vehicles; expansion of our Adopt-a-Street program; a partnership with local restaurants to feature stickers on drive-thru windows and in pickup areas reminding customers to properly dispose of food items and waste; and revisiting locations for trash and recycling receptacles across the city. The new campaign also includes an awards program at the end of the season where the city will recognize a community cleanup group for all their hard work.

Comings, Goings, and Such

- A warm welcome to the following new employees:
 - Fire Chief Damien Locklear (Fire-Rescue)
 - Austin Smith, Police Officer Trainee (Police)
 - Heather Hughes, Police Officer Trainee (Police)

Department Items

Development Services

MPO - Technical Coordinating Committee

The Technical Coordinating Committee met on January 11, 2024 to review an amendment to the FY 24 budget to reappropriate funding to begin work a Feasibility Study for Micro transit and the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; review the draft FY 25 Budget; discuss the draft Prioritization 7.0 Local Input Methodology; and to discuss the use of Carbon Reduction Funding to improve the intersection of Trent Blvd/Rhem Ave/Pollock Street/First Street.

Carbon Reduction Funding

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) codified the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) in an effort to reduce transportation emissions. Federal funding is given to states to use statewide (CRP-Anywhere) as well as a direct apportionment to MPOs. These funds can be used on a wide range of projects that reduce emissions such as traffic management, public transportation, congestion management, construction of sidewalks, and more. CRP funded projects are 80% federal funded with a 20% non-federal match for projects. However, NCDOT funds the local match for CRP-Anywhere projects. The CRP is a five-year federal funding stream that began in 2022.

The MPO has been working with NCDOT to utilize the CRP-Anywhere funding to identify a project that meets this criteria. The intersection of Trent Blvd/Rhem Ave/Pollock Street/First Street has been previously identified as needing improvement. An express design had been completed for this project to convert the intersection to a roundabout at a cost of ± \$6.5M. The entire cost of this project would be funded by NCDOT and CRP-Anywhere funds if selected.

Project applications may be submitted anytime to NCDOT who then reviews the projects and informs applicants if and when the project is selected. The MPO and NCDOT are currently working on completing the application. We are hopeful that this project will get selected since it has been identified as a high crash frequency intersection and NCDOT Division 2 supports this project.

Land Use:

Smithfield's Chicken N' Barbeque has withdrawn their DRC application due to economic challenges and intends to submit it later this year or next year.

Historic Preservation:

The HPC Historic Property Owners Support Work Group (HiP) met on Thursday, January 11. The group discussed budget requests, creating a new event for Dryborough homeowners, and the current status of 735 Bern Street, 1002 and 1004 N. Bern St., and 615 Bern St. They also initiated a discussion with their invited guest, Mo Howland, owner of the Shop Class woodworking training business, about working with his business and other partners to help train Dryborough homeowners with home repairs.

On Monday, January 8, HPC staff had a video meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) director and staff about the timing and policies regarding their Technical Advice letters in order to improve their relevance, especially in demolition cases. HPC staff followed up by sending the SHPO director and staff pdfs of our relevant policies and guidelines.

New Bern Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee held its third meeting on January 8, 2024. Safety has been a consistent topic discussed at each meeting. Staff discussed

the components of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Campaign to include how modifying the recently adopted New Bern Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan could lead to possible future federal funding. Funding to modify this plan is available through a federal grant and possibly through NCDOT. Funding options were also discussed to advance work on priority projects. Committee members were asked to identify priority projects so that staff could work on estimating costs. Additionally, they will begin work planning an event to raise awareness and funding. The Committee directed staff to inquire if funding was still available from NCDOT to modify the Plan.

Electric Utility:

The City of New Bern submitted its concept paper for the Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program under Topic Area 1, Grid Resilience Grants. The concept paper is the first step of a two-step process.

The full grant application for grid resilience grants is due on April 17, 2023. Until then we will not have a grant application number. However, for the concept paper stage, the DOE issues a control number which is listed below.

A brief summary of the project scope: The City of New Bern and New Bern Public Utilities are requesting funding to provide reliable electricity through resilient infrastructure to New Bern and the surrounding coastal region. The project provides a small, publicly owned electric utility the capacity to prevent disruptions by rerouting electrical loads through a new delivery point to the electric system, a new substation, and other critical infrastructure. This resilient infrastructure will modernize an electric grid and strengthen a community which has directly experienced the devastating effects of multiple extreme weather and natural disasters. The total project cost is \$30,000,000. The City of New Bern will provide a local match of \$9,990,000.

Project Name: City of New Bern Grid Hardening and Modernization Project

Funding Opportunity: Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program (DE-FOA-0003195)

Application #: N/A; Control Number 3195-1897

UEI #: CKYTDKAT93Z3

\$ amount requested: \$20,010,000

You will notice the amount of the request is greater than last year's request. The City of New Bern used the time between submission periods to strengthen its project. The request includes all the infrastructure from the previous grant application plus the following additional infrastructure upgrades:

- Undergrounding power lines at strategic locations;
- Right-sizing underground conductors at strategic locations;
- Adding advanced controls to quickly isolate faulted line sections and extinguish arcing; and,
- Adding make-ready infrastructure for future energy deployment.

These additions ensure that this investment's benefits will extend well into the future. The numbers are estimates and may change slightly in the final application once the engineers submit their final estimate.

The Department plans on working with the consulting group Strategics through the Grant process.

- Staff responded to the recent Winter Storm. At its peak, 12,000 customers lost power. All power was restored by 4:30am the following day.
- The Kale Road emergency generator was forced out of service during the winter storm. Staff is working on repairs.
- Red Bear EV Charging Site – Fourteen (14) charging sessions in the past 7 days.

Fire-Rescue

Incidents (56)

Investigations (0)

Inspections (42)

Home Safety Visits (4)

Education (9 people)

Detector Battery Installs (6)

Child Passenger Safety Seat Installs (4)

Fire & Life Safety Events (0)

Mutual Aid Calls (1)

CO Detector Installs (1)

Smoke Detector Installs (6)

Training (451)

Chief Locklear has started meeting with all Fire-Rescue staff.

Human Resources:

- Information provided in Comings, Goings, and Such

Parks & Recreation:

Stanley White Recreation Center

- 36 out of 118 pre-cast panels have been installed on the new facility.

Marshwalk Phase 2

- Contractors are 100% complete with this project. Staff is working through the permitting process for phase 3 of this project.

Monk Mallard Park

- Crews are installing a new picnic shelter.

Fort Totten Park

- Crews are installing a new picnic shelter.

Lawson Creek Park

- Hours of operation are currently 6am – 10pm. We have been having ongoing public safety issues after dark at this location in the back part of the park. Within the next week, we will be installing a gate at the choke point. This gate will be locked at sunset daily until further notice in hopes of reducing some of these activities. Areas that will not be accessible after dark include a walking trail, the Marshwalk, Jacks Island, Boat launch 2, and two shelters. The public will still be able to enter the park and use the main boat launch area, Thalman Field, and restrooms.

CITY MANAGER’S WEEKLY REPORT

January 12, 2024

Special Event Applications the week: 5

Burials the week: 4

POLICE

| Wards | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Total |
|--------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|
| Traffic Crash (No Injury) | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 11 |
| Traffic Crash (With Injury) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Traffic Crash (Unknown Injury) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Traffic Stops | 54 | 32 | 0 | 16 | 34 | 32 | 168 |
| Noise Complaints | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 |

| Ward | Crime Type | Date/Time | Status |
|------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Larceny-Theft from Motor Vehicle | 1/3/2024 9:25 | Further Investigation |
| | Robbery | 12/31/2023 21:06 | Further Investigation |
| 2 | Burglary / B&E | 1/2/2024 8:04 | Closed/Cleared |
| | Larceny-All Other | 1/2/2024 14:39 | Closed/Cleared |
| | Larceny-All Other | 1/3/2024 18:51 | Further Investigation |

Public Works:

- Public Works crews prepped and responded to storm-related issues during and after storm event this week: Public Buildings Crew addressed damages at City Hall and Public Works Solid Waste compost site roof on shelter; Streets/Stormwater/Solid Waste crews removed storm debris, trees, limbs, etc. blocking streets/rights-of-ways; Streets Crew repaired down signage; and Streets Crew is addressing repairs to fallen traffic light pole at Craven Street & South Front Street.
- Solid Waste bulk waste route trucks will run behind next week due to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on Monday, 1/15/24, and plans to have all routes completed by Friday, 1/19/24; residential/commercial trash/recycling services will run on schedule next week; and Litter Crew continues to monitor/remove litter along City rights-of-ways throughout City of New Bern and continues to remove litter along US Highway 70 Bypass between Pembroke & South Glenburnie Road exits, within city limits, as part of the City’s participation in the NCDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway Program.
- Stormwater Crew continues to perform normal maintenance with cleaning/clearing of city-maintained inlets, outlets, and outfalls throughout the City of New Bern.

Redevelopment Commission:

Community Outreach:

- This week, the Redevelopment Commission had its regular business meeting on January 10, 2024. Two Resolutions were made. One is initiating the upset bid for the purchase of 808 and 810 Bern Street. The other is a resolution for the

property at 209 West Street. The Commission voted to give Mr. Diggs and Ms. DiCarlo a 48-month extension on constructing a home. In addition, the Commission received reports and updates from project and working groups. Finally, the commission agreed to reschedule the strategic planning session to Saturday, January 27th (9 am-12 pm) at Development Services.

Walt Bellamy Update:

- The contractor continues to work at the small house site. Siding and drywall have both begun on all three parcels. In addition, the underground installation of the utilities is in process. This week, staff and chair Beth Walker met with News Channel 9 and were featured in a story on the redevelopment efforts on Walt Bellamy. A link to the piece is captured [here](#). With the current progress, all three houses will be available for sale by late April or early May.

Wellness Update:

- The wellness clinic discussions are still underway. This week, progress was made with several community partners as it pertains to plans for the Health and Wellness Center. The wellness working group is working hard to engage the public so that accurate and available information is distributed effectively and efficiently. On Thursday evening, the Duffy Field residents' council, The People's Assembly, and the Phoenix project met with several officials from the redevelopment commission, a city official, and community partners to discuss the project. Overall, while some proposed changes surprised those gathered, the reception was overall positive.

Eubanks Update:

- Staff met with Habitat this week to discuss details of CDBG funding. With the assistance of Chair Walker and the City's CDBG consultant, a path forward was presented that will allow all parties to participate as planned. Habitat for Humanity will present to its board of directors early next week and follow up with staff as soon as they decide how to proceed. The commitment to utilize the Eubanks house to meet the need for affordable housing is one that all parties hold in common. The Habitat and Redevelopment Commission staff feels optimistic that forward movement is imminent.

Water Resources:

- This week operations staff worked to install new connections, renew several old water and sewer services, and repair damaged services at various locations throughout the City, including Haywood Farms Road, S. Glenburnie Road, Pavie Avenue, Selover Avenue, C Street, Stately Pines Boulevard, Trent Woods Drive, and Cobblestone Alley.

Significant Ward Related Items

Ward 1

- Heavy Equipment Crew removed broken glass from Middle Street due to fallen windows from old Elks Building (The Kessler Group was notified of the damage); cut/removed three fallen trees near 520 Craven Street; cut/removed fallen tree along right-of-way of Elmwood Street; grinded stump on right-of-way near 508 Middle Street; and addressing damages to fallen traffic light pole at Craven Street & South Front Street, which is scheduled for completion of repairs next week (images shown below).



- Solid Waste Litter Crew continues to monitor/remove trash near downtown consolidated trash dumpsters.

Ward 2

- Concrete Crew replaced speed limit signposts near 2604 Country Club Road.
- Heavy Equipment Crew cut/removed fallen trees on Elizabeth Avenue and Spencer Avenue.
- This week, the City was notified of a water leak on Evans Street. Operations staff quickly responded to the site and were able to excavate down to the water main and found a broken fitting on a 4" pipe. Staff implemented a small-scale water outage on Evans Street and Neely Street, which allowed them to make the necessary repairs and return water service to all the impacted customers Monday Evening.
- Stormwater Crew responded to drainage concern at rear of 2904 Union Court; regraded swale around air-vac pit on corner of McKinley Avenue & Nelson Street; and completed clearing lot at McKinley Avenue & Pearson Street for potential park location (images shown below).

**BEFORE****AFTER****Ward 3**

- The Director of Public Works attended a meeting this week to discuss concerns with NCDOT regarding proposed charter school on Old Airport Road and requested NCDOT provide additional review of TIA and consider future impacts of (I42) improvements at Gardner Road.
- Asphalt Crew assisted by Heavy Equipment Crew & Stormwater Crew completed drain tile repairs on Waterscape Way this week and contractor scheduled next week to complete asphalt repair pending weather.
- Concrete Crew completed two driveway inspections at 1001 & 1003 Alizarin Lane, Bayberry Park and replaced brackets on street name sign at Haley Ray Lane & John Willis Road.
- Stormwater Crew addressed drainage issue on Neuchatel Road.

Ward 4:

- Concrete Crew replaced street-name signage on Loblolly Lane.
- Pre-construction meeting for Racetrack Road Improvements is scheduled for Tuesday, 1/16/24.

Ward 5:

- Concrete Crew replaced speed limit signposts on Helen Avenue, Cobb Street and Duffy Street.
- Heavy Equipment Crew performed tree trimming along rights-of-ways within the Duffyfield Community; cut/removed tree from City sewer easement at Cooper's Landing off Simmons Street; and cut/removed fallen trees on Glenburnie Drive, Georgia Avenue, Dail Street and Bosch Blvd.
- Stormwater Crew responded to residential structure concern on City property at 1301 Jarvis Street; inspected sink hole at 131 Sweet Briar Court and installed safety cones until repair complete; cleared drainage blockage near 301 North Glenburnie Road; and removed fallen inactive utility pole near City drainage area at rear of 2503 Dogwood Drive.

Ward 6

- Concrete Crew replaced stop signs and posts at Jimmies Creek & MLK Blvd.
- Heavy Equipment Crew cut/removed fallen limb from City right-of-way on Beacon Hill Road; and performed tree trimming within Haywood Farms Subdivision.
- Stormwater Crew removed loose leaves/debris from drainage ditch near 1402 Thorpe Abbotts Lane.