

Good afternoon from the Mayor's Corner. Here are the Significant Activities for the week ending September 25, 2020.

Initial Notes

Good Afternoon Everyone. Fall is here, cooler temperatures are a welcomed relief and decorations adorn the Gazebo, Veterans Park, Museum and around City Welcome Signs. It has been an exceptional week of hard work for all Departments and this week I would like to highlight the Streets and Sanitation Dept. You may have noticed the remarkable increase in the amount of yard waste and rough trash collected by this Department. Our employees have displayed a good spirit of cooperation to the acting director and all are to be commended for a job well done. Water/Sewer/Stormwater Department is addressing issues in the areas of Summerfield Subdivision, George Street and Railroad Avenue.

The Finance and Utility Billing are moving forward in the transition process to Incode. Employees are doing an excellent job in managing the challenges that accompany changes in billing processes. This month a new meter reading system is being used to feed information to Incode. Thanks to Finance, Utility Billing, and the Water/Sewer employees for giving 100%+ all week long.

Human Resources:

Personnel Count:

- Number authorized = **129** full time.
- Number employed = **119** full-time.
- 1 part-time (museum).
- 4 part-time / as needed (Fire Fighters)

Vacancies

- 1 UB Clerk
- 1 Dispatcher
- 1 W/S Equipment Operator
- 1 Public Works Director
- 1 Building Inspector
- 3 Police Officers
- 1 Police Sgt.
- 1 Fire Fighter

Hiring Actions

- Public Safety-Two will sign up Monday
- UB Clerk interviews- Oct. 1st
- Public Works Director- Apps under review

Complaints: None

Safety / Training -None

Worker's Comp Claims – One, skin abrasion Water Dept.

Finance:

- Staff Accountant attended annual Government Accounting Seminar. This seminar provides updates to the Governmental Accounting Standards each year so that the City can stay up to date on recent pronouncements.
- Continued transition for Utility Billing into new software provider. Citizens now available to fully incorporate online or over the phone payments while creating a portal account to view history through the City of Grovetown Utility billing website.

Public Safety:

- The police department arrested 6 subjects during this period: 3 for DUI and 3 for warrants

Criminal investigation division had 4 cases assigned and closed 9 cases

- The fire department responded to 15 calls: 7 fire calls and 8 medical calls
- Fire Department conducted a mandatory driver's training course at Liberty Park on 09/22, 09/23, and 09/24.

Leisure and Recreation (L&R) Services

Parks & Facilities Updates

- Cut grass at Euchee Creek Trails, Liberty Park & Liberty Park Ballfields, Municipal Court & 201 E. Robinson
- Bush hogged a portion of the backside of Kiddie Park and assisted David Carlin with bush hogging the hillside next to Fire Station #2
- Placed Fall decorations at several City Parks and the City Welcome Signs
- Placed Fall flowers and new flowerpots at City Hall, Municipal Court & Planning/Development

- Worked at Liberty Park to prepare for and set-up for events scheduled on Friday, September 25th
- The boardwalk area of the Grovetown Euchee Creek Walking Trails is now open and a 55' portion of the boardwalk area has been replaced.

Facilities Maintenance –

- A total of 10 work orders this week: 5 at City Hall, 3 at the Fire Department and 1 each at the Liberty Park, Municipal Court & Planning/Development

Fleet Maintenance

- 1 job remains open from last week (or previous weeks)
- **Leisure & Recreation**
 - John Deere Mower: Repair deck
- **Public Information**
 - Repair flat tire
- **Public Safety**
 - Chevy Tahoe: Routine Service
 - E-One Ariel Truck: Replace 4 rear tires- outsourced
 - Ford F-150 Pickup Truck: Routine Service, Repair windshield washer
 - E-One Fire Rescue Truck: Replace EGR coolant line, repair power steering reservoir
- **Streets**
 - Hustler Mower: Leaking motor seal- Outsourced (under warranty)
 - Hustler Mower: Replace blades
 - Grasshopper Mower: Replace blades
 - International 4300 Dump Truck: Repair PTO cable

- **Water/Sewer/Storm Water**

- Ford F-750 Dump Truck: Replace batteries
- Gravelly Mower: Replace PTO and Deck Drive Belts
- O'Brien Jetter: PTO/Clutch Issue – Not Complete for 3 weeks, waiting on a part to be built – there is also a delay in obtaining parts due to COVID

Rental & Member Updates –

- 5 new rental contracts and 3 returned contracts with payment
- Facilities and fields were utilized a total of 25 hours
- 5 new memberships

Event & Program Updates-

- *Family Movie Night* – Will be postponed to a later date due to the wet ground and predicted weather for this evening.
 - New date TBD
 - 33 registrations (142 guest)
- *Food Truck & Farmer's Market event* – Friday, September 25th at Liberty Park Community Center from 5:30pm to 9pm; 11 confirmed vendors
 - We have moved this event mostly indoors due to predicted weather for this evening
 - Social distancing will be required, mask are recommended and hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the event
- *Community Yard Sale* – Saturday, October 10th at Goodale Park; 6 confirmed vendors
- *Autumn Festival & Trunk or Treat*- Friday, October 23rd at Liberty Park from 6pm-9pm; 11 confirmed vendors & 1 confirmed trunk or treat registration
- *Military Day Event*- Saturday, November 7th at Veterans Park from 11am-3pm; 7 confirmed vendors

Information Technology

- This week we saw numerous outages for our ability to process credit card payment with Open Edge
 - Open Edge Servers were down for the second half of the day on Wednesday and then again, the first half of Thursday
 - All issues are reported as being resolved as of about 1 pm on Thursday
- Tyler Technologies reported an intrusion in their voice system on Wednesday.
 - This caused a slowdown in our operating systems and the inability to make calls to technicians.
 - Tyler Technologies currently reports that they have no reason to believe that any customer's personal data was breached as this was their voice communications
 - I will continue to monitor for any updates or concerns
- Received the order for 3 new laptops and 8 monitors to replenish stock
 - Set up one new computer for P&D
 - Setup one computer for Rec Maintenance
- Wi-Fi refresh for City Hall is complete
 - Next week Wi-Fi will be setup for P&D and a new replacement for the Fire Dept side of Public Safety
- Ordered new Uninterruptible Power Supplies for the City-wide refresh

Water / Sewer and Stormwater Departments

Project Updates

- **Pump Stations:** Horizon South Station- new manholes installed and preparing to be tied into the existing sewer system
- Butler Creek- continued work
- **Christmas Lights** ongoing, making progress
- **Effluent force main:** continued work

Water/Sewer/Stormwater Departments

- 19 History reports completed
- 34 locates performed
- Repaired 3 service line leaks
- Installed 13 new meters in various locations
- Cleaned and hulled out the ditch line behind the Robinson Avenue lift station

- Repaired the transducer on the Robinson Avenue tank
- Door hangers were put out for customers who had high usage
- 4 detention ponds were cut (Summerfield, Dodge lane, Bryans Circle, and Independence Way)
- Preparing several areas that need asphalt patching from leak repairs
- Checked on goats daily
- Met with the maintenance manager at Highland Hills apartments to verify all meters were correct in the complex
- A lot of grass cutting is taking place around the plant area
- Belt press was running for 2 days and a roll-off of waste was taken to the landfill

Streets and Sanitation department

- 11.31 tons of bulk waste and 7.7 tons of yard waste picked up and taken to Advanced Disposal.
- 22 bags of litter collected
- 24 Work orders completed
- Grass was cut on Horizon South, West and East Robinson, Harlem Grovetown Rd, Old Berzelia Rd, Hardy Dr, VFW, and Newmantown Rd.
- Tree limbs cut back on East Robinson Avenue.
- Ditches were checked and cleaned throughout the city.

Planning and Community Development

General:

- 56 Inspections this week

Event Update:

- September 17, 2020 – Planning Commission Meeting was held and with full attendance. The Commission considered the following cases:
 - TEXT AMENDMENT 20-01 – The Commission considered the text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Article 12 – Non-Conformities and unanimously voted to recommend approval.

- RZ 20-002 – Rezoning of 72 parcels – The Commission considered the Rezoning of 72 parcels (excluded from the Form Based Code) from respective CC6 and CC7 to R1 (Residential District) and unanimously voted to recommend approval with staff conditions.

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 1, 2020 – Board of Zoning Appeals, 6:00 PM, at the Council Chambers, City Hall to consider a Conditional Use Permit Application.

Code Enforcement Update:

- Responded to dead tree issue at 107 E Robinson, safety concern
- Mailed certified notice to owner of 5039 Reynolds Way for overgrown grass, property vacant
- Monitoring for recent illegal food vendor activity in McCoy’s Creek final phase, license and permit required
- Visited Ashland Way and issued numerous notices for overgrown grass, and one notice for inoperable vehicle
- Senators Ridge subdivision, Independence Way issued notice to “semi-truck” for parking in residential zone
- Monitoring business activity at 5060 Wrightsboro Rd. for proper occupancy and permitting
- Answered request for recent code violations at parcel on 7591 Pleasantville Way
- Contacted owner of abandoned vehicle parked near 4605 Martha’s Way requiring vehicle be removed.

- *Pump stations*

Lewiston Road – Both new manholes installed and getting ready to tie into existing sewer system.

- *Effluent Force Main*

24” line being installed about 1/3 pleated

- *Georgia Ironworks*

Have not begun work on tapping into watermain.

- *Deer Hollow*

Grading

- *Brighton Apartments*

working in/on buildings

- *Pepper Hill Stormwater*

3 weir inlets installed

Landscaping almost complete

Public Information Office

- Managed Help and Information Desk- majority of calls and walk-ins were Utility Billing related as customers get used to our new system, updated City Hall sign
- Attached Agenda and supporting documents to City website for Council Work Session
- Quarterly newsletter sent out with Utility Bills; I am starting to highlight local businesses within the City
- Working on Teddy Bear Giveaway project set for December (sponsorship, etc.)
- Fan Drive: We have about 10 fans to give away to those in need
- Sunday interview on Good Morning Augusta regarding 2020 Census- Grovetown sits at 66% response rate. Last week, we were at 65.7%. We are still above state average
- Assisting Grovetown Leisure and Recreation as they push out upcoming events.
- Attended City Council Work Session
- Continuing constant contact with department directors
- Rotarian duties for Public Image Chair position

General

Key Events

- ***Family Movie Night – postponed to Friday, September 25th alongside our Food Truck and Farmer’s Market Event.***

- **Food Truck & Farmer's Market event – Friday, September 25th at Liberty Park from 5:30pm to 9pm; 11 confirmed vendors**
- **October 1, 2020 – Board of Zoning Appeals, 6:00 PM, at the Council Chambers, City Hall to consider a Conditional Use Permit Application.**
- **Community Yard Sale – Saturday, October 10th at Goodale Park; 2 confirmed vendors**
- **Autumn Festival & Trunk or Treat- Friday, October 23rd at Liberty Park from 6pm-9pm; 8 confirmed vendors**
- **Military Day Event- Saturday, November 7th at Veterans Park from 11am-3pm; 6 confirmed vendors**
- **Next Council Meeting and Work Session - October 12,2020 @ 6:00pm**

Closing Comments – Thanks to all our employees for their hard work and dedication to making the City of Grovetown a better place to live. Thank you to our Council members. On October 12, 2020 we will resume Council Meetings/Work Session in the Council Chambers and will observe appropriate social distancing measures. Thanks to Brian Henderson for his assistance with this report. The format has been modified for easier reading.

Enjoy your weekend,

Mayor Gary E. Jones

(Posted on behalf of Mayor Jones by Public Information Officer Ashley Campbell)