



Town Manager's Report

August 3, 2023

Monthly Manager's Meetings – I attended the monthly Manager's meeting and met the new School Superintendent (Dr. Stan Winborne) who is the newest member of the group. The group includes a number of individuals in new roles. The Superintendent shared one of the school system goals for having a School Resource Officer (SROs) in all their schools and to partner with the municipalities where they can for schools located within municipal limits. Counties are responsible for funding public school systems, but it is common in North Carolina for municipalities to provide SROs to schools in the Town limits and when funding is available. The school system is looking to secure a grant that would assist with covering the cost, which makes it more realistic for the Town to participate. The concerning factor is when or if the grant funding would expire. *For Your Information.*

Various Economic Development Meetings - I met with Audrey Boone who is serving in a new role as interim Executive Director for the County's Economic Development. We reviewed areas of Butner suitable for industrial development and discussed the need for more coordinated efforts for retail opportunities. We discussed potential economic development projects for the Town and remain hopeful for landing one in the future despite the limited land available for large projects. Along the lines of economic development, I met with a couple of industrial brokers this month who have great interest in Butner. Their specific interest is in constructing large industrial/distribution type buildings and they have interest in several areas around Town including the Butner Gateway. I shared our plans for Butner Gateway, and they recognized our preference for mixed use and retail. We had a good discussion and explored the possibility of distribution type buildings within the central portion of the Gateway while preserving the areas closer to Gate two Road and Hwy 56 for more mixed use/retail uses. Stay tuned as economic opportunities are at our doorstep. *For Your Information.*

Depot District Meetings – As you are aware the Depot District is a vision for the Newton Instruments Warehouse area that could incorporate start-up retail, restaurants, breweries/distillery, and other similar uses. I had the opportunity to meet Walter Newton and tour Newton Instruments and we discussed the vision for a Depot District. Walter is very much supportive of the concept and willing to pilot the concept if he can identify interested individuals or companies willing to commit private investment. We held a follow up meeting with an individual who is currently leasing space and has an interest in opening a distillery. It was encouraging to meet with a property owner who supports this concept and is willing to take steps to encourage further development in Town. *For Your Information.*

Central Regional Hospital 15-Year Anniversary - The mayor and I attended the 15-year anniversary for Central Regional Hospital (CRH). While COVID impacted the healthcare sector tremendously we were interested to learn that as many as 260 employees have been with CRH since its beginning in 2008. ***For Your Information.***

Website Subscription Feature - We are happy to report the subscription feature is live on our website. Residents have the option to sign up through our website to receive either the quarterly newsletter electronically or town notifications (such as road closures, news, events, etc.) or council meeting announcements. To sign up for email subscriptions, users should visit: <https://www.butnenc.org/newsletter/subscriptions> ***For Your Information.***

Pickleball - We continue to hear from residents and individuals interested in playing Pickleball. Staff has completed some research and unless the Council feels otherwise, intend to purchase one set of Pickleball equipment to include a portable net, paddles, balls, ball holder and temporary court lines. The idea would be to start with one set that can be utilized at the Sports Arena to gauge interest and possibly purchase more sets later. The total cost is approximately \$600 for the set and would be purchased from existing budgeted funds. ***For Your Information.***