



Town Manager's Report

March 7, 2024

Finance Software Implementation – Implementation of the Town’s new finance software is moving faster than anticipated. The financial portion may be ready to go live in March with the payroll portion live in May and full implementation by June/July. Over the last several weeks, staff has put in considerable training time to help with a smooth transition. The new software will provide the ability to receive online payments and as discussed at the finance committee meeting, we intend to pass on any convenience fees to the customer. *For Your Information.*

Greenway Bridge Design. You may recall the greenway footbridge was damaged by flooding this past month. Within the last week we authorized a structural engineer to begin designing a fix for the bridge. The total cost is \$3,500 and funds are available within the budget for this work. We anticipate design work being complete within 30 days at which time we will evaluate options for bidding and moving the project forward. *For Your Information.*

Multi-Purpose Field Feasibility Study – The NC League of Municipalities originally intended to use American Recovery Funds to provide engineering and planning (E&P) studies for Towns at no cost. Our plan was to use this service to study and prioritize potential locations for developing future soccer/multi-purpose fields. We have been informed the League no longer intends to offer this service. We believe this study is still a priority for the Town and would like to evaluate options and pricing for a similar study with the Town covering the cost. This will most likely be a budget item for consideration next fiscal year with an estimated cost of \$40,000. The League is continuing to offer a cybersecurity assessment and grant services at no cost to the Town. *For Your Information.*

Gazebo Park Tree Removal and Banners – Crews have removed one large tree from Gazebo Park and pruned a second. The area is now prepared for the performance stage construction to occur later this year. This month staff continued evaluating whether the Town should allow private banners at Gazebo Park and on Town property. Staff reviewed a Supreme Court Case (Reed v. Town of Gilbert), checked with surrounding Towns, and reviewed the usage policy for the electronic sign at Gazebo Park. Based on this review we do not believe it is in the Town’s best interest to allow private banners on Town property. Exceptions to this would include the federal, state, or local government, as well as the tourism development authority or the Butner Community Association which is consistent with the usage policy for the electronic sign. Additional exceptions would apply for events held at Gazebo Park which are approved by the Town. Staff is open to further input from Council, but for the time being intends to enforce this internal policy. *For Your Information.*

Spring Litter Sweep, Beautify Butner Day, and Employee Roadside Cleanup – NCDOT’s spring litter sweep is April 13-27, 2024. This is NCDOT’s biannual cleanup drive that encourages citizens and groups to get out and clean up along our roadways and in our communities. The Butner Community Association (BCA) has planned a community cleanup for Saturday, April 20th (Beautify Butner Day). Interested individuals or groups can come to Gazebo Park at 8AM and will be provided with necessary supplies, safety vests, water and snacks. The event typically ends by noon. Following these events, we have planned a town employee roadside cleanup day. This will occur on Friday, May 3rd (weather dependent). *For Your Information.*