

Manager's Report May 6, 2024

Last Tuesday night we had a Town Hall meeting for districts 1 & 2. There was a great turnout. Tonight, I want to talk about some of the concerns that were raised.

Streetlights were one of the key issues. On August 5, 2021, near Hardee's and Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes & Fries a young man lost his life in an accident. He was on a motorcycle and collided with a car. It is hard to see around dusk with the lighting that is there. I spoke with Duke Energy about lighting from Hinson Street to Walmart. After going round and round with Duke Energy, they finally turned this project over to Pike Engineering. I received an email from Pike a couple of weeks ago stating that they have sent the project over to DOT (Division of Transportation) for their approval. I hope to hear something soon.

On January 24, 2024, Barbara Kornegay and I met with a representative from Duke Energy to talk about adding lights or changing the old lights with new LED lights which will brighten up some of the darker areas in town. I have attached a map that Duke Energy has gone over and sectioned off the town to start the work. I spoke with a Representative of Duke Energy this morning. I requested the exact dates the work would start. I asked him to be straight with me and give me an actual timeline on things, and he said "it is going to be a few months before they start putting the lights in. He said that with a job this big, the whole town, they must order all the materials, hoping that everything is in, and nothing has to be backordered.

Ditch cleaning was another big concern. We are looking at purchasing two new backhoes. Delivery date is 10 to 12-weeks. There is approximately a 3 months turnaround before our

equipment will be delivered. I am waiting for the contractors to get this started.

Another area of concern was our cameras. I have been working with ITSS out of Goldsboro. They are the company that will be providing our internet service. I know it seems like it is taking forever, but I want to make sure that we are making the right decision and that they are going to still work for more than a few years. I am hoping that we will decide on this very soon.

We had some asking about the drainage project. I am sorry, but there is still not a lot to tell. They are still in the Engineering stage. The Engineering should be finished by the end of this month. They are still trying to get all the paperwork from CSX and from DOT for the Right of Way. I will follow up with any new info next month.

We do not want to leave out the Moratorium, we are still working with Viable Utilities. They are helping us make sure that we are reporting everything in the right format for the Washington office, DWQ.

I am sorry to say that we do not have signs made and placed. It has been a very busy month. We will have some signs made and placed in June.

I want to thank Ms. Vicky Darden and her Widow's group for taking time out of their busy schedules to feed all the Town Employees. It was a nice gathering. Again, thank you.