

Town Manager's Report for September 2024

The town's moratorium is still our most pressing issue. Going on ten years and we have a little farther to go. We are working with a few different state agencies and have some things in place. We are now working with NCDEQ and with NCDWI. We are still sending in our quarterly reports on time to NCDEQ and meeting with NCDWI monthly. We have been awarded four grants to help us get off the moratorium. One is the WWTP Collection System Replacement & Rehabilitation Grant in the amount of \$8,000,000 and the WWTP Plant Improvements Grant in the amount of \$6,000,000. These are ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. We have two CDBG (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT) grants. These both are infrastructure grants. One is in the amount of \$136,000 and the other is \$1,864,000. The last of these grants will end December 31, 2026.

We have two lighting projects going on currently. One is the town's neighborhood lighting project is taking care of adding lighting in our residential area is just finishing. This project is to add more lighting in our residential neighborhoods. The beginning stages of this project is to replace all our streetlights with new LED lights. However, they will have to be stronger LED lights added or new lights and poles added. If there are areas in your neighborhood's that are still not bright enough, please contact our office to let us know. Our second lighting project is on Hwy 55 at Hinson St., to West at Walmart. This project is through Duke Energy, work is being done by Pike Engineering. This project will start December 1, 2024, and end January 31, 2025.

We have started ditching work on south Church St. Water is draining slowly. Will work with DOT (Department of Transportation) to try and get a larger tile across Church Street so that drainage will move water more quickly so that flooding is not an issue.

The sign machine is still an issue. I have tried to work with a few different companies to help to link the software with the hardware, but all are so busy. I know that everyone is so tired of hearing excuses, and I take full responsibility for our machine not being fully operational, but I am going to spend some time with The City of Goldsboro getting some tips from them. I should have worked with them first, but again, I am sorry for the delay. Will promise to be farther along next month.

Street resurfacing is a project that we truly need to start. I have talked with a few commissioners about some streets. We have some streets on the list. If you have some streets that you think should be on the list, please get with your commissioner and we will try and get them on the list of streets to be resurfaced.

Center, Maple Street Drainage Project is on its way. We are in the final stages of engineering. Should start on the culvert under the railroad track very soon, and then dig the ditch after that, along side 100 West Kornegay Street.

We are having a lot of problems with our Water Meters. They are old and outdated and have passed their usefulness. We did receive a \$1,000,000 grant from The Drinking Water Improvements (ARPA) Funds, and we decided to use them to replace our water meters. We are having to reread half of all meters every month. This is burning a pile of man hours, gas and vehicle use every month. The new meters will give us accurate readings and more precise bill amount. This grant will end December 31, 2026.

We have just finished our CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. We have replaced three brand new homes, and they look fantastic. One family has moved in already and the other two should be moving in within the next month. These homes have a tax value of over two hundred thousand dollars.

We have installed one camera so far. This was to get familiar with the system. We are hoping to have all fifteen installed in the next two to three months. I really think that they are going to work great for the town. They have some nice features. Will keep everyone up to date on the progress.

I would like to thank all our residents for working with us and being patient with this progress.

Thanks again,

Jammie Royall
Town Manager
Town of Mount Olive