1. On August 23, 2017, I attended the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) Rate Committee meeting. The primary item on the agenda was the Full Requirement Power Purchase Agreement (FRPPA) true up; and the rate adjustment that would be caused by it. The FRPPA true up for capacity was $13 million to the NCEMPA, while the FRPPA true up for energy was a negative $9.8 million. The net effect of the FRPPA true up is $3.2 million. Based on the cost distribution formula, the City’s share of this would be $133,574. This amount would be divided by 12 months and placed on the City’s utility bill as a Rider. The 2015 calendar year true up was a negative amount; and the City has been receiving a credit on our power bills each month. The net change in Rider #1 would be $175,715, annually. During the Rate Committee meeting, it was decided that the true up amount would be paid out of agency working capital, rather than being assessed. This action will not affect our long-term rate plan.

2. Yesterday, City staff began disconnecting utilities for customers in Cycle 3 who had not made a payment or had failed to enter into a payment agreement. On Wednesday, there were 263 customers subject to disconnection; however, that number dropped to 165 by noon on Thursday. Customer Service disconnected 120 customers; and 72 of those cut-off customers came in to make payment or establish agreements. These customers were reconnected. The remaining 45 customers who were not disconnected on Thursday will be disconnected on Monday morning, if payment is not received. Cycle 3 contains more than 450 customers who have requested payment agreements.

3. The Inspections Department, along with Community Development recently issued a permit to convert the space at 107 Jordan Plaza (formerly Jordan Realty) into Domino’s Pizza. This franchise intends to include seating for 26 dine-in customers, as well as the usual pick-up and delivery service options. In addition, permits have also been obtained to remodel the space at 123 Jordan Plaza into a nail salon. It is nice to see these existing buildings refurbished and utilized again, thus giving the public more
business options to patronize. The dates are not finalized; but we are expecting to see openings in the fall.

4. On Wednesday, August 23, 2017, at approximately 6 p.m., we experienced a strong storm in the area. The generator that feeds the Public Safety Building transferred over to emergency power, although it did not need to. Western Branch Diesel was called the following day to begin testing the generator, which is still under warranty. Western Branch Diesel determined that the incoming main disconnect breaker failed. They will continue to perform further testing; and, by this afternoon, we will know if anything else was damaged. This will allow all parts to be ordered in a timely manner. The generator will continue to stay on emergency backup until this is resolved. It is critical that we solve this problem as quickly as possible, as we are now entering peak hurricane season.

5. Beginning Monday, a private contractor will begin painting the seven decorative light poles located in and around Mariners’ Wharf Park. These light poles were originally installed 10 years ago, when the park was erected. Some of the light poles are black, while others are “dirty green” “Dirty green” is a process used to create an antique finish. All of the poles will now be painted jet black in the same fashion as the ones located on Main Street. Weather permitting; the contractor should complete the painting within three days. The paint being used is a special order, which will provide extra durability.

6. A long-standing goal of the City Council was to open a park to honor our veterans; and during March 2017, Veterans Park was established. Located at 222 North Water Street, the park rests at the one of the entryways into the City. On Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Veterans Park underwent a renovation. The park, which was originally seeded with rye grass, has now been sodded with Zoysia. This is a stronger, longer-lasting sod and adds to the beauty of the area. You may notice from the photo, the eagle, which sits atop the monument is missing. During the storm on Wednesday evening, our eagle took flight. Luckily, it landed nearby and staff was able to recover it the following day. There was no damage sustained. The eagle was taken to Clifton & Clifton, the company that erected the monument, and they will have it remounted on Monday.
7. Recently, Well #8 on Wellfield Road had lost nearly 50% of its production capacity. Evaluation by a certified well drilling firm found two issues. One issue was that approximately 60% of the well screen was clogged with mineral deposits. The second issue was that a pipe coupling between the well pump and pump piping had corroded and created a hole. These two factors led to the reduced capacity. The well screen will be cleaned and the corroded pipe coupling will be replaced with a stainless steel pipe coupling. It is expected that well screen cleaning will be periodically needed for all wells and will be budgeted accordingly.

8. This week, a structurally failed manhole was replaced on Hoffler Street, near Southern Avenue. The failed manhole had created a large pothole in the street. With the assistance of contractors, the manhole and failed sewer sections were replaced. The Street Division completed the subsequent road repair.

9. I am pleased to announce that our Grants Management Specialist, Dawn Harris, has been accepted into the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government 2017-2018 Municipal and County Administration (MCA) Course. MCA is a course recommended to all mid- and executive level public administrators. The course is designed to increase knowledge of all facets of local government. The program will also provide an opportunity for Dawn to become a part of a broader network of local government peers and professionals from across the state. Elizabeth City has had several staff members graduate from this course, including Assistant City Manager Angela Cole, who received top recognition for the municipal track in 2015. Parks and Recreation Director Dexter Harris is also enrolled in the MCA course. The programming and scholars at UNC SOG have proven to be an invaluable asset to the Elizabeth City organization and staff.

10. The work on the Colonial Avenue/Elizabeth Street Alleyway project officially began today, with some initial tear-out work by our Public Works team. Monday, August 28th is scheduled as a Clean Up Day where volunteers and property owners will be removing all existing fencing and extraneous items in the alley. Clean up begins at 10:00 a.m. for anyone interested in coming down to help on the project. Fencing installation will begin on Tuesday, August 29th. Fencing will be installed by Wholesale Fence Outlet. We are hoping for a one-week to
ten-day turnaround for completion. Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. is facilitating this project with additional financial contributions from The Committee of 100 and the business owners. Many City departments, including Public Works, Utilities, Fire, Community Development and Administration, have been involved in a team-oriented approach to bringing this project to fruition.

11. The September 1st deadline for the first round of Business Improvement Grants is approaching. Deborah Malenfant, Executive Director of ECDI reports that she has sent applications and information to six individuals with downtown properties and has fielded multiple other inquiry calls. At the current time, no completed applications have been received. Anyone interested in applying for a BIG for downtown properties should contact ECDI Director Deborah Malenfant at 252-338-4104, elizabethcitydowntown@embarqmail.com. For non-downtown projects, please contact City Grants Management Specialist Dawn Harris at 252-337-6673, dharris@cityofec.com

12. Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.’s Music on the Green at Mariners Wharf Park Summer Music Series announces Go Figure as the performers for the Tuesday, August 29th concert. Music on the Green is a free to the public concert at Mariners' Wharf Park on Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m., beginning July 25th and continuing through September 12th. Local and regional bands will perform for your entertainment. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the sounds of live local music on the waterfront with a cool breeze -- there is always a nice breeze down on the waterfront. Come to downtown early and enjoy shopping, dinner and drinks at one of our many downtown stores and restaurants; or stay later for dinner. Hot dogs, snacks and drinks available for purchase by American Legion Post 84. For more information, call ECDI at 252-338-4104. www.musicatmarinerswharf.com

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