

Mayor and Council,

Below is this week's weekly report. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Have a great weekend!

### **Public Works**

1. The free Rain Barrel giveaway through our Stormwater Utility had a robust response and all 65 barrels available for this spring giveaway are spoken for. We encourage residents to visit our partner website [Clean Stream Champion – Clean Stream Water for New Castle County](#) for more information on how to help keep our streams clean in and around Newark. We expect to have additional rain barrels available in Fall 2023.
2. Preparations for UDon't Need It? Annual Student Moveout Program (UDNI) are underway for the annual event, which will be held on the STAR Campus once again in 2023. Notifications, social media posts, and mailers will be going out over the next month ahead of the event. Sale dates and details will also be advertised beginning in May.

### **Police**

1. Newark PD's Year 1 web-based CALEA Accreditation review took place from Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday April 12, 2023. Two CALEA Compliance Service Members (CSM's) conducted a review of Newark PD's Law Enforcement and Communications accreditation files. The CSM's also conducted interviews with staff members covering six accreditation subject areas. The CSM completes an annual report of their Year 1 findings, as part of the 4-year review process, which culminates in an on-site review in 2025. The CSM's credited the agency with its commitment to CALEA standards.
2. On Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, members of NPD will attend the opening ceremony for Newark American Little League. This year, NPD will be sponsoring a team as will Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder and NALL leadership hopes to have a first responders' game later this year.

### **Parks and Recreation**

1. Dickey and Handloff Park Basketball Courts are being refurbished over the next two weeks. During this time the basketball courts and surrounding hard surface areas will be closed.
2. Park staff continue mow grass areas and clear trails from fallen trees and debris from the storm.
3. Staff started prepping cleanup site maps for the volunteer groups scheduled for the Spring Clean Up and coordinating pick up of supplies needed for the event.
4. All community garden plots at Dickey Park and Fairfield Park are sold out.

### **Facilities**

1. Carpet installation in the municipal complex is nearly complete. We have two offices left and anticipate we will be done early next week, several weeks ahead of schedule.

### **Finance**

1. RFP 23-02, which selects the bank for the City's master lease agreement, was reviewed this week. Five banks applied for consideration and Bank of America was selected by staff to fund our equipment needs. We are currently working with our financial advisor and bond counsel to prepare the paperwork to come before Council on May 15.
2. Two vendors were selected via RFP 23-01, Council Chamber AV upgrade, to interview for the project to replace the AV equipment in Council Chamber. We are now in the process of scheduling these interviews.
3. The new utility customer service platform, Silverblaze, has hit a couple of delays that our vendor is actively working on. This new portal will also give our customers the ability to pay their bills via Apple Pay, Google Pay, Paypal, Venmo, Amazon Pay, and Walmart Pay once we go live.

### **Electric**

1. The line crews worked to fix the remaining storm damage on Lehigh Road. We also energized four units at Briarcreek North.
2. Engineering attended DeIDOT's utility preconstruction meeting for I-95 and SR 896 interchange project. We have to relocate three poles and the 3 phase primary aerial line in front of Roadway Inn. Our relocation work will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Planning and Development**

1. Three new land development submissions were received this week.
  - a. 339, 341, and 349 East Main Street has withdrawn their previous proposal and has submitted a new plan that is under the new BB zoning code requirements.
  - b. 55 Benny Street has submitted their second round of plans for review.
  - c. 65 South Chapel Street has submitted their fourth round of plans for review addressing comments that need to be completed before the project can be heard by Council.
2. Parking staff met with IT to review potential opportunities for installment billing for the City's parking permit customers. Staff is looking to implement this program for the next round of biannual permit billing for July through December 2023, which would give permit holders the opportunity to pay for their permits in six equal monthly installments via EFT instead of paying for the entire six months up front. Staff is hopeful that this option will encourage more businesses to participate in the parking permit program for their employees.
3. Staff worked to finalize tracking mechanisms for police-related offenses for the nuisance property ordinance. It is anticipated that the first round of warning letters with applications for the nuisance abatement program for properties that have accrued five or more points will be issued next week.