

Mayor and Council,

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

Have a great weekend!

City Manager's Highlights

1. I'm happy to report that the GFOA has awarded the City the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending 2021. I would like to give special thanks to our Deputy Finance Director, Jill Hollander, and our accounting team for all of their hard work. This is the 13th consecutive award. Please see attached for the GFOA press release.
2. Continuing the award trend, Tyler Technologies has selected Newark as a winner of their "2023 Tyler Excellence Awards" for the public sector. Thank you to the many staff members involved.
3. The spring concert series and Academy Street beer garden started this week. Our restaurant partner for this year is Hamilton's on Main. The first event was a great success and I would like to thank Hamilton's for elevating the event over prior years with a food menu, additional musical guests, and an expanded drink menu. Thank you to all the staff members involved in both events as well!
4. We have submitted all of our Bond Bill requests and are working on additional letters of support. We have so far received several support letters including but not limited to the Newark Historical Society, TNP, and the Friends of School Hill.
5. We have taken delivery of all but one electric vehicle from this year's orders. Our total fleet will be 10 EV's by the end of the year, including our two electric zero turn mowers. This is up from 3 at the beginning of the year. Staff will continue to monitor the effectiveness of EV's in each application to determine where and how many EV's will make sense for our fleet.
6. We are now up to 33 job postings so far this year. We have recently been notified of a few more likely retirements over the next 12 months. Recruitment and retention will continue to be a focus for the City Manager's office for the foreseeable future.
7. I attended the "Everyone Gets Home Summit" in Dover this Thursday which included a series of speakers and presentations on traffic safety in Delaware and what we can do differently to address the record number of traffic fatalities in 2022 and so far in 2023.

Planning and Development

1. New plan submitted for 339 East Main Street.
2. Revised submission for 30 South Chapel under new BB code.
3. New submission for 25 North Chapel under new BB code.

4. Hyatt Place hotel, working for TCO on May 12th for opening before the end of the month. There are a handful of life safety issues that need to be addressed prior to a TCO being issued.
5. Fountainview – Letter issued to all residents last week advising them of the updated status of the building and an extended timeline before residents can reoccupy the building. Additional issues were identified by the demolition that will also need to be addressed above and beyond the demolition associated with water damage remediation efforts.
6. Nuisance Abatement Program – Staff sent out 11 letters to properties with 5 or more violations two weeks ago, and 5 more are going out this week.
7. Planning held their first meeting with UD's planning staff on Wednesday the 3rd. UD discussed tentative plans for projects and the student experience master plan. Will meet bimonthly moving forward and likely coordinate this meeting with a regular meeting that Public Works has with the same UD planning staff.

City Secretary

1. The digital records coordinator job posting has closed and it appears we have several good applicants. We will schedule interviews in the coming weeks.
2. The job posting for the deputy city secretary position is open and accepting applications.

Public Works

1. AT&T is planning a large fiber replacement project in town that will affect several roads. Staff is working with DelDOT to coordinate efforts to reduce disruptions.
2. Staff are working with DelDOT and the site contractor to address flooding on Valley Road in the area of the Briarcreek North project from this past weekend.
3. Water division staff held a training program for PUBs on water operations, metering, and the stormwater utility.
4. Street Program – finishing up curb replacement in the Hunt at Louviers, Christianstead, and Wyncliff. They will move to Madison Drive and Dickey Park next, depending on the weather.

Electric

1. Electric department engineering staff met with Delmarva to discuss the design of the new substation and connection point to Delmarva's transmission system.
2. We had a large power outage last weekend. The cause of the outage was a fault in a section of power line upstream from our transformer, on a section of 138kV line. Insulators failed and Delmarva replaced the insulators on Monday.
3. Staff completed annual oil testing on all substation transformers. This is part of our annual preparation work ahead of increased summer loads.

Parks and Recreation

1. Staff spent time this week preparing our pools for reopening. We also have contractors in to perform some replastering work in both pools.
2. Grass cutting is behind schedule due to the poor weather and consistent rain.
3. Adult volleyball and softball leagues have begun for the season.
4. Maintenance staff are working on trail cutbacks and general maintenance work in Rittenhouse Park ahead of Rittenhouse Camp.
5. Court lines are installed at the recently resurfaced basketball courts in Handloff Park and the backboards will be reinstalled shortly. Dickey Park should be lined by the end of the week, after which the backboards will be reinstalled.

Finance

1. Payments and Utility Billing are preparing for student move in move out.
2. The January financials are will be on the May 15th council meeting agenda for acceptance.
3. Our audit still underway, and is on track to be complete in advance of the June 30th due date. GASB 87 implementation is causing more work this year because it requires a lot of one-time setup. Fortunately, once this is set up future years will be easier to complete.

Police

1. On Wednesday May 3, 2023, several of the command staff and officers attended the annual Delaware Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service which was held at Legislative Hall in the City of Dover. The ceremony honors the fallen men and women of Law enforcement within the State of Delaware.
2. On Wednesday May 3, 2023, D/C Feeney attended an informal meeting regarding the transition to the Delaware Universal Enrollment Program (UEP). Beginning in late June, all persons (volunteers, applicants, etc.) requiring a criminal history check, will be directed to a participating "IdenttoGO" facility for fingerprinting. There are 9 locations throughout the State including 4 in New Castle County. The Delaware State Bureau of Identification will no longer be conducting criminal history checks. There will be a fee for each applicant fingerprinted.
3. On Saturday May 6, 2023, officers will be at Captain Blue Hen Comics from 5-8 p.m. for a community engagement event for Free Comic Book Day. The PAL trailer will be used with 4 officers present to interact with kids and hand out free comics.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5/4/2023

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(Chicago, Illinois)—Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to **City of Newark** for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.