

Mayor and Council,

Below is the weekly report for the two weeks ending today, August 4th, 2023. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Have a great weekend!

City Manager's Highlights

1. Items for Newsletters:

- a. **Free Water for a Year initiative:** Newark Water customers are encouraged to complete the online survey at this link: <https://newarkde.gov/lead> to enter a sweepstakes for free water for a year, up to \$1000 value! The data collected will help complete a required inventory of service lines and reduce operating costs for the water utility. Please share with your newsletters and mailing lists.
- b. **Academy Street Beer Garden:** We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with Hamilton's on Main again this fall for a series of beer gardens to benefit Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder. Stay tuned to our social media for the schedule and more information on specific themed events!

Electric

1. Wednesday August 9th, we have a 6-hour scheduled power outage scheduled for East Park Place between Academy and South College to move power lines from a damaged pole to the newly replaced pole. This will impact two traffic signals so we will coordinate with DeIDOT and are scheduling for overtime coverage with the Newark Police Department as needed. The work is scheduled to begin at 7 PM and notices will go out to affected customers shortly.
2. We completed the transfer of power lines on East Cleveland Avenue to new poles installed by Delmarva Power.
3. We completed installation of an underground replacement cable at the Super 8 hotel redevelopment project. The previous aerial lines would have conflicted with the proposed building so the developer has paid to move the lines underground.
4. We had three storm related power outages last weekend and one on our 34 kV system this morning caused by a snake. The two larger storm outages were restored quickly, 3 minutes and 10 minutes respectively, by our automated recloser system. The smaller storm related outage was longer. This morning's outage on the 34 kV system affected a larger area but was automatically restored by our recloser system in about 3 minutes. The automated systems

turned what would have been outages measured in hours, not minutes, so they are performing very well.

Public Works

1. Our contractor completed paving of East Park Place this week. Temporary striping is in place which will be replaced with permanent epoxy in the future as the schedule allows.
2. Our crew is working with a contractor to replace standard valves and check valves at Silverbrook sewer pump station to help improve our ability to do ongoing repair and maintenance.
3. The Chrysler Avenue bike and pedestrian improvement walkthrough was held this week. Turnout was good and we received a variety of feedback that will be beneficial as we work to develop conceptual designs.
4. Engineering has completed the bid package for the remaining State Revolving Loan Fund sewer rehabilitation capital project. This will be publicly bid soon with the goal to be under construction this fall.
5. Engineering has scheduled a meeting on August 10th with DeIDOT to discuss the Old Paper Mill Park project and proposed entrance improvements.
6. Engineering issued a purchase order to our consultant for the second half of the valve exercising program that began last year. The current schedule has their remaining work complete by the end of October.

Police

1. On Tuesday, August 1st, members of the Newark Police Department participated in the National Night Out event. The event was well attended and included a K9 demonstration from the NPD K9 Unit and a vehicle extrication demonstration by Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder. Among the displays were the NPD Command Post, SWAT, Crisis Negotiations Team, PAL, Traffic Unit Motorcycles and others. The event was also attended by other First Responders including UDPD, Aetna, DNREC Police, Probation and Parole and New Castle County EMS.
2. On Friday, August 4th, Chief Farrall and Lieutenant Bolden met with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety to discuss the upcoming pilot traffic speed camera program.
3. During the week, the department extended two additional offers of employment for police applicants. With these two hires, NPD will send four police recruits to the New Castle County Police Academy in September.

City Secretary's Office

1. Diane Reed, our new Deputy City Secretary started with the City this week. Diane joins us from Elsmere where she served in a similar role, giving her great experience. We are happy to have her join our team.
2. City Secretary Schiano is working with the AV team from Lerro this week while they replace the AV system in Council Chamber.

Parks and Recreation

1. Weeds and grass are growing very fast due to the recent rainfall and sunny weather. Maintenance staff are focusing their efforts in this area currently.
2. DNREC visited Hillside Park this week to review the progress of the fish that were stocked in the pond earlier this year and gave a positive report.
3. Drainage changes were made at Dickey Park community garden to address runoff issues caused by the sidewalk to the garden from the parking lot.
4. The dedication ceremony for the Dickey Park community garden originally planned for last week was postponed due to heat. Staff are currently working to decide the best time to reschedule the event.
5. The bathroom at Rittenhouse Park was damaged by a falling branch during a storm earlier this summer. The roof needs to be repaired and replaced but the work will have to wait until after the camp ends on August 11th.
6. Parks and public works held a pre-construction meeting with the contractor for the Devan Park drainage improvement project. The work is scheduled to begin in two weeks. The first three to four weeks of this work will be storm sewer improvements in occur in Cornwall and Alexandria Drives, after which it will move into the park.

Planning and Development

1. DART Connect Newark will begin on Monday, August 7th. We are waiting for the state to complete some remaining items specific to the app, website, and promotional materials. We have two public information sessions scheduled for Friday the 4th at Main Towers and the Newark Senior Center.
2. Code enforcement staff have a meeting this week with representatives from the assessment office at Fountainview to determine if the County can reduce assessment values for the units in building 3000 to reduce resident's tax bills. We should have more information soon.

3. We received the initial subdivision plan submission for the Newark Housing Authority project in George Reed Village. In accordance with council direction, this project has been placed at the top of the review queue as it is an affordable housing project.
4. We held an initial meeting with the developer for 6 Innovation Way, the large vacant lot in the Delaware Technology Park, who is proposing a new structure similar in design to the rest of the technology park.

Finance and IT

1. Our AV consultant, Lerro, is currently completing the upgrade work to the Council Chamber AV system that allows us to hold hybrid public meetings. The work is progressing well and should be complete in time for the council meeting on the 14th. We have requested Lerro have a representative on-site for the first meeting.
2. The April financial report is nearing completion and there is no major change from the March report.
3. Staff have spent considerable time preparing the budget information necessary for the first budget presentation that is due for the packet on Monday for the August 14th council meeting.
4. Director Del Grande completed our required quarterly ARPA reporting to the Treasury Department.