

Manager's Report for January 2025

Good evening, everyone. Happy New Years! It is hard to believe that we are in another new year already. We accomplished a lot last year, surely not as much as we would have liked to.

Some months ago, we put in for an extension for the SOC. November we were granted the extension. Last month, Robert Tankard from DWQ, Washington Office, came down to go over the revised SOC with the Mayor, Commissioners Barbara Kornegay and Delresse Simmons, Glenn Holland, Sherry Davis and myself. Robert went over the revised SOC which will be presented to everyone later. We also met with Caroline Bari with NCDEI, Viable Utilities are continuing to work with us on our sewer problems.

As we all can remember, the time we had with our water system back in November. We have gone over what is needed to fix the problem, not patch it, but fix it. We found out that the filters were not correctly maintained. So, we are going to hire a company to redo the filters as they should be done. That is to remove the wrong sand and replace it with the correct layers of sand and remove two old filters inside the plant and install the filter that has been outside in front of the plant for the last five years or so and put it into service. The price to fix the problem is around \$150,000. We will start on this as soon as possible.

I am sure by now everyone has seen the lights being installed out on Hwy 55. They are about halfway finished with installation. Even though some say that they are not needed, it is going to make a significant difference to the area. We are also working on the lights throughout the town. Even though we have installed LED lights all around the town, we still have a lot of dark areas. I have been in touch with our Duke Energy Representative, and he is going to work with me until we can get our lighting to where it should be.

Last month I am sure that everyone noticed the work that was being done on Breazeale Ave. and Talton Ave. We were replacing a collapsed sewer line that had been mashed from years of trucks driving over them. This is something that had to be done sooner rather than later. It was supposed to be done when we were going to do that part of the sewer grant project, but it will count as some of the work that is needed for some of what is needed for the SOC. A lot of this project was done after hours because we had to go across Breazeale Ave. so traffic would not have been so bad. This was a major project, and I thank our employees for doing it instead of having to hire it out, which counts as a substantial savings for us. We have done a few sewer and drainage projects in the last couple of months.

We have started the downtown parking space striping. This project will go on for a month or so just working it in with other projects and due to the weather. We have also got a few quotes on getting some street paving that we need to have done. We should be able to make a few streets in town. This work may not start until it warms up a bit, but we will start on this project as soon as the weather allows.

On our sign machine, I have Mr. Billy Wilkins helping me with it. With it being Christmas, we did not have a lot of time last month to work on it. After some things he has to get done, we should be on it full blast.

I am attaching the Parks and Rec, Public Works, and Collections report on things that they did last month. I am so proud of the job that our employees do for us. They really go above and beyond the call of duty. Working during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays and never complaining about it.

Please feel free to call me about anything that I have reported, things that I haven't reported that you think I should have reported, questions or comments. This report will be placed on our website.