

## Manager's Report August 14, 2018

- 1) We have been notified by Republic Services, Inc. that the recycle industry is struggling and a rate increase is imminent, perhaps before the end of this fiscal year (which has just begun). It appears any increase would be small. China, the largest consumer of US recycling formerly took one third of it and has stopped accepting any recycling from the US. Other countries will likely buy the recycling and process it for China. The representative told us that the price for paper was down from \$180 to \$60 per ton. The price for plastics is nearly zero. The price of glass was a negative \$10 per ton. They only continue to collect glass because it is environmentally responsible.
- 2) The pickleball courts were striped almost a month ago and there are now three courts to play on simultaneously. The striping for the upper basketball court is complete. Our staff had to paint the lines as we could not get any contractor to commit to the project in a timely fashion. Hopefully, by the Council meeting the lower court striping will be complete. The hump left at a seam in the pickleball court has been fixed by heating the court and re-rolling it.
- 3) Line painting on our roads continue, albeit at a slow pace due to the non-availability of paint and rainy weather. Additionally, the parking lot behind town hall has been worked on and striped.
- 4) The first street name signs have been installed on the mast arms on Valley Boulevard and South Main Street. Others will follow soon.
- 5) Davant Field drainage improvements and paving of the track around the field are now complete. Additionally, a major repair to a main beam in the floor/support structure of the Rotary Pavilion that was rotten has been replaced.
- 6) The fountain in Broyhill Lake has been inoperable due to problems. Parts were ordered to repair, but it took a while for them to arrive. The parts have been received and the electrician hopes to have it completed before the Town Council meeting.
- 7) Luke Taylor has been hard at work doing masonry projects and has spent over a week cutting stone for the rock wall in Memorial Park. He has been cutting rock when the weather is bad at the old recycling building (his shop) and laying rock when it is good. This is a slow process with one person, but he is doing beautiful work on the wall. Take a look!
- 8) Richard Steer has been working on the public restroom behind town hall preparing it for the Donation tree that we hope will be here soon. He has pressure washed the building and is now painting the building
- 9) Short – term rental information
  - a. STR ordinance adopted at June Council meeting. An application is being drafted and notification were sent out with a target date for compliance of September 1, 2018. The plan is to permit renewals by September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
  - b. Twenty-four rental enforcement letters were mailed out for violations discovered through STR Helper

- 10) Trash and Recycling Can Enforcement – Despite several efforts to inform citizens about the new ordinance on placing/removing trash and recycling can from the curbside, many still do not know the rules. We are working with citizens on what the ordinance requires and how they can construct trash container bins on their property.
- 11) Miller condemnation at 712 Possum Hollow Road – John Warren has been involved in the condemnation proceedings on the Miller house for almost one year. There have been repeated efforts to contact Mr. Miller by phone and certified mail. There have been multiple hearings scheduled but no one has attended. John is working with the Town Attorney to navigate through the legal process since the property is in a life estate and owned by Frances Henson (Miller’s grandmother) who is in a nursing home in Asheville. A final hearing notice will be sent including estate owners where an order to demolish will be given. The order to demolish will eventually come to Council if the owners take no action.
- 12) The High Country Council of Governments (HCCOG) is assisting the UNC School of Government with a needs assessment that will solicit input from local elected officials across North Carolina. “It has been over a decade since the School of Government gathered personal feedback from you about the important issues you face and how they might help you be better prepared to meet the many challenges of governing now and in the coming years. The Needs Assessment Project is designed to hear what you think could be most helpful and valuable with respect to your leading and governing.” <sup>UNC SOG email</sup> The UNC School of Government has requested that one elected official from each town participate in a “Needs Assessment.” **DATE:** Wednesday, August 29, 2018 **TIME:** 1:00pm to 3:00pm. One volunteer from Council should attend this meeting.
- 13) Tasha Johnston, Accounts Payable Clerk in the Finance Office will be attending the Introduction to Local Government Finance Course at the School of Government later in the month