

CITY OF LOWELL NEWS & INFORMATION

April, May & June, 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Hello Everyone! It has been a busy few months for our City and City Council as we are in the midst of budget preparation for the upcoming fiscal year which begins July 1st. We have been aggressive in pursuing infrastructure as well as economic development grant opportunities and we have reached out to our State and Congressional representatives to garner their support of our applications.



On January 27th the Council held its annual planning retreat and reaffirmed the following goals:

- Improve and Expand Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Improve and Expand City Streets and Sidewalks
- Maintain and Develop Public Facilities
- Enhance Park and Recreational Activities
- Develop Land Use Master Plans for Undeveloped Areas

These goals have helped to guide our decision making and we will continue to make decisions that provide you the best services possible at the lowest possible cost. Below you will find updates on a few items happening in our city. I am so excited about what's in store for Lowell.

- Mayor Sandy Railey

CITY MANAGER UPDATES




City Approved Capital Improvement Plan:

The City Council recently approved a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address needs for the water and wastewater utility system. The CIP is driven by its mission to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater service with environmental integrity.

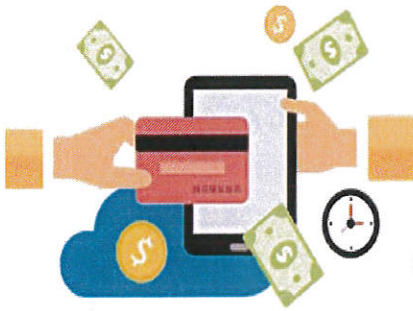
The CIP is the planning mechanism by which the City Council allocates limited financial resources to implement long term goals over multiple years. Its purpose is to forecast and match projected revenues and major capital needs over multiple years. Capital planning is an important management tool that strengthens the linkage between community infrastructure needs and the financial capacity of the City. The CIP is simply a plan to guide decision making. As such, projects and funding mechanisms are subject to change based on new or shifting service needs, special financing opportunities, emergency needs, or other directives or priorities established by the City Council. Priorities established in the CIP guide subsequent decisions made by City Administration. The City of Lowell CIP achieves five major objectives as a component of the City's water and sewer enterprise fund planning process:

1. Helps the City rationally and intelligently plan for the repair, replacement, and acquisition of capital items that are necessary in providing high quality services to the citizens of Lowell.
2. Assists in fiscal planning by forecasting capital demands together with future revenues and expenditures.
3. Ensures better coordination, evaluation, and planning of projects to serve the community and its needs.

DATES TO REMEMBER

		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Easter 3 Planning Board, 6 pm, City Hall 9 City Council Meeting, 7 pm, City Hall 12 Senior Easter Luncheon, 11:30-1:00pm, Presbyterian Church 19 Recreation Commission, 6:30 pm, Community Center 23 Master Planning Committee, 6 pm, City Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Planning Board, 6 pm, City Hall 13 Mother's Day 14 City Council Meeting, 7 pm, City Hall 17 Recreation Commission, 6:30 pm, Community Center 28 Memorial Day (City offices closed. Trash delayed 1 day this week). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Planning Board, 6 pm, City Hall 11 City Council Meeting, 7 pm, City Hall 17 Father's Day 21 Recreation Commission, 6 pm, Community Center 25 Master Planning Committee, 6 pm, City Hall

REMINDER ... UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS



In-Person (Cash/Check/Money Order/Credit Card)
By Mail (101 W First Street)
Secure Drive-Up Drop Box (Located Behind City Hall)
Online (www.lowellnc.com)
Online Banking (Set us up as a vendor – Allow 7-10 days to receive check.)
Toll-Free Number (844-262-8223)

NOTE: Auto Draft Payment Option Coming Soon!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor - Sandy Railey	704-860-7162
City Council	
Phil Bonham	704-674-1452
DeWayne Chitwood	704-616-0265
Ken Ervin	704-813-1586
Candy Funderburk	704-824-2816
Thomas Gillespie	704-824-1249
City Manager - Kevin Krouse	704-824-3518
City Clerk - Beverly Harris	704-824-3518
Police Chief - Scott Bates	704-824-8540
Fire Chief - Scott Moore	704-824-3357
Public Works Director - Thomas Shrewsbury	704-824-1072
Parks & Recreation	704-824-0099

After-hrs non-emergency law enforcement. 704-866-3300

After-hrs Public Works emergencies. 704-506-3145
704-506-3146

City Website www.lowellnc.com
Fire Department Website www.lowellfd.com

Lowell, NC The Patriotic City



The City of Lowell newsletter is published quarterly to inform the residents of Lowell about their city and related activities. Questions and comments should be directed to the City Clerk's Office, 101 West First Street, Lowell, NC 28098.

City of Lowell
101 West First Street
Lowell, NC 28098

Std. Mail
Non-profit
Permit #1
Lowell 28098

POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY MANAGER UPDATES (Continued)

4. Serves, together with the annual budget and other financial plans, as a guide to decision-making for the City Council, City Manager, and staff.
5. Serves as a systematic and comprehensive analysis of capital needs, increasing the probability of making rational budgetary judgments since improvements are identified, prioritized, and matched to the projected fiscal resources of the City.

Investments must be made to maintain our system to be able to continue to provide a high level of service and the City is committed to do so.

Downtown Pedestrian Improvements Coming:

The Gaston County Commissioners recently approved a township grant request from the City of Lowell in the amount of \$154,000. Part of the grant money will go toward pedestrian improvements to the intersection of 1st Street and Main Street. The City expects these improvements to begin this summer.

Community Center Upgrades:

As part of the Township grant received from Gaston County the City will begin to make much needed repairs to the community center located at 501 W. 1st Street.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning Grant Awarded to Lowell:

The City was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the NC Department of Transportation through a competitive grant process. The grant will pay for the preparation of a pedestrian and bicycle plan for the City. The plan will guide future decision making and allocation of resources. The plan is also a requirement for the City to apply for construction grants to install pedestrian improvements such as sidewalks and greenways.

Two New Businesses in Lowell:

A new **Enterprise Rental and Sales facility** was built at 4820 Wilkinson Blvd. Enterprise constructed a new wastewater lift station on the property and gave this system to the city. This new lift station will provide opportunities for redevelopment in this area of Wilkinson boulevard that did not previously have access to sewer which restricted development.

Echo Park Automotive which is a modern auto dealership has located at Exit 22 at I-85.

Master Planning Committee

The master planning committee has been busy with aesthetic improvements in our downtown. New Banners were purchased and installed downtown and irrigation has been repaired in areas to allow for flower plantings downtown. Other improvements included beautification of the police department building including, cleaning the building, new awnings, and new landscaping.

New Website Coming:

The City is working to provide a new city website that will provide an enhanced user experience. The website will be the go to source for information about the city and will provide improved ways for citizens to interact with city staff. We are excited about bringing this new service and will provide more information soon.

Interested in Volunteering ...

From time to time the City reviews applications for new volunteers to serve on Council appointed boards and or committees. If you would like to volunteer or to be considered for a future appointment, please send your application to City Hall. As positions become available, your application will be considered. The application can be found on our website under the "Forms" tab, or you can pick one up at City Hall.

NOTES FROM THE CHIEF'S CORNER

Greetings from the Lowell Police Department!

It is that time of year again with yardwork being in full swing. We would like to give a helpful tip as you start to work in your yards. We notice each year an increase in larcenies of lawn equipment and this is usually due to individuals leaving equipment such as push mowers, trimmers, blowers and chainsaws unattended in their yards while they go inside and take a break from the heat. We recommend that you do not leave the equipment unattended as this makes for an easy target for thieves.

Spring break is coming up and some citizens will be taking vacations. If you would like your residence put on a special check, just contact the police department and we will make sure that happens while you are out of town.

We would like to welcome our newest patrol officer Mark Corum to the Lowell Police Department. Officer Corum comes to the police department with 7 years of law enforcement experience.

NOTE FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Reminder to the citizens, to have a yard sale you must acquire a yard sale permit from City Hall. If you use signs to attract attention to your yard sale, such signs are not permitted to be attached to utility poles or street signs. You may attach signs to your own post or stake, however signs must be removed the same day of your sale after it is over. Failure to remove your signs the day of could result in future yard sale permits not being used to you.

As grass growing season approaches, residents are reminded to keep yards cut and never allow the grass to grow over 12 inches in height. The Lowell Police Department Code Enforcement Division will be strictly enforcing vegetation overgrowth throughout the season. If you see a violation, please email the Code Enforcement Division at harrison@lowellpd.org.

Have a blessed Easter holiday!

- Chief Scott Bates

Lowell Parks & Recreation News



Lowell Patriots Baseball Camp

April 14th

Ages 5-8 (9am-11am) – Ages 9-13 (12pm-2pm)

Fall Soccer Registration Begins – June 15th

Senior Easter Luncheon

April 12 11:30-1:00pm

Lowell Presbyterian Church

Register by calling 704-824-3518 by April 6



2017 WASTE WATER Performance Annual Report

Available at City Hall or
online at www.lowellnc.com.

REMINDER...

One pool adjustment per year.
Completed request form required.
Found online under "Forms"
or at City Hall.