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TO: Town of Blacksburg

FROM: Shane Childers, MBA, Assistant Town Administrator

DATE: November 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Update – October 2024

The Administrators report will be published each month for the Town of Blacksburg Citizens to be informed of Town activities and updates. In addition, this report is provided at each regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information at shane@townofblacksburg.com or 864-839-2332.

1. The Town Administrator continues working with DHEC and the State Revolving Fund, along with the Town Engineering on the initial phase of the \$1,500,000 Principal Forgiveness Grant that was awarded to address upgrades to the Cherokee St water line and the installation of separate booster pumps. Surveying has been completed at this time. Construction is expected to begin early 2025.
2. The Town was awarded the opportunity to apply for the 2nd phase of the Appalachian Regional Commissions' READY Local Government's recent Grant Training that was completed by the Town Administrator and Police Chief. The second phase of this program is expected to make available a \$50,000 internal capacity grant.
3. The Town Administration is working to secure funding for initial phases of the Town's Streetscape Master Plan.
4. The Town Administrator continues working with CC&I Services and other stakeholders to address several troubled and dilapidated structures to make the Town and the Town's Core Commercial District more attractive and marketable.
5. The Town Administrator has been working with the Town Engineer and the Cherokee County Development Board on water capacity issues and any needed expansion on possible upcoming industrial projects. There are multiple potential projects that are being evaluated currently.
6. The Town Administrator attended multiple training sessions in October to include: ICMA training on "How Community Engagement Strengthens Small Cities and Towns", Municipal Association of SC Fall Managers and Administrators Forum, Ten at the Top's Upstate Homelessness & Housing Forum, and the first of 3 ICMA Budget Training Webinars.
7. The Town Administrator and Public Works Directors have been working with 120 Water to complete the first annual Lead & Copper Unknown Service Line inventory and required customer information letters.
8. The Town of Blacksburg partnered with the Blacksburg Business Association, along with members of the community, to host the recent, and very successful, Food Truck & Treat event on October 31, 2024.
9. The Town Administration is working on the Christmas Parade & Christmas on the Square on December 14, 2024.
10. The Town Administration partnered with the Blacksburg Business Association to launch the "Light Up Blacksburg" Street Lamp Christmas Decoration sponsorship campaign to raise funds for decorating all 42 streetlamps in the downtown area. We are pleased to report that all 43 streetlamps have been sponsored at this time.
11. The Town's Public Works staff has been working tirelessly to clean up from Hurricane Helene. As of October 8, 2024, the Town staff has removed and transported to the Cherokee County Landfill a total of just over 226,000 pounds of debris. The Town continues to work with the 3rd Party Contractor on debris cleanup. The streets in the Town limits are estimated to be 90% complete on debris removal.
12. Town Public Works staff continue to conduct routine maintenance and repair to the Town's Water System, Streets and Parks, and roadway infrastructure.
13. The Town of Blacksburg Police Department had 288 calls for service in October 2024, according to Cherokee County Dispatch monthly data.
14. The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department had 82 calls for service in October 2024, according to Cherokee County Dispatch monthly data.
15. Town has completed the 7th Period of FY25. The Town has spent approximately 52.08 % of the FY25 budget of \$3,240,650.