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TO: Town of Blacksburg

FROM: Shane Childers, MBA, Assistant Town Administrator

DATE: December 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Update – November 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 in early 2025.
2. The Town Administrator has been working on and has submitted the READY Local Government Internal Capacity grant application which was due on December 9, 2024.
3. The Town Administration is working to secure funding for the 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. The Town Administrator has attended several site-ready project meetings in recent weeks, which could possibly add industry to the Blacksburg area of Cherokee County.
6. The Town Administrator attended and completed budget training through the International City/County Management Association.
7. The Town Administrator is a Duke Energy Regional Advisory Board Member and recently attended the meeting held at the Bad Creek Hydro Station and was able to tour the facility.
8. The Town Administrator was happy to attend the Spartanburg Community College's Cherokee County Campus groundbreaking for a new SPARK building, which will be very beneficial to workforce development in Cherokee County.
9. The Town Administrator attended the Ten at the Top's Downtown Academy held in Liberty, SC bringing away great ideas related to revitalization.
10. The Town of Blacksburg event planning team has begun meetings to plan for events being held in 2025.
11. The Town Administration is working on the Christmas Parade & Christmas on the Square on December 14, 2024.
12. 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 42 streetlamps have been sponsored at this time. Decorations continue to go up in town.
13. Town employees have been working diligently to plan for this year's Christmas Parade and Christmas on the Square, scheduled for December 14, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.
14. The Town Administrator has applied to FEMA for Public Assistance to help recoup expenses related to Hurricane Helene and will have an exploratory meeting with FEMA in January of 2025.
15. Town Public Works staff continue to conduct routine maintenance and repair to the Town's Water System, Streets and Parks, and roadway infrastructure.
16. The Town of Blacksburg Police Department had 305 calls for service in November 2024.
17. The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department had 56 calls for service in November 2024.
18. The Town has completed the 8th Period of FY25. The Town has spent approximately 61.36 % of the FY25 budget of \$3,240,650.