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TO: Town of Blacksburg

FROM: Shane Childers, MBA, Assistant Town Administrator

DATE: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Update – March 2025

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. The schedule of construction has been submitted and the opening for bids will begin in the next few months.
2. The Town Administrator has been working on and has submitted the READY Local Government Internal Capacity grant application. The Town has been assigned a project coordinator through ARC and expects to be notified over the next couple of months on any awards.
3. The Town Administration is working to secure funding for the initial phases of the Town's Streetscape Master Plan. The Town Administrator met with both S.C. DOT TAP Fund grants management and the Appalachian Council of Governments to begin preparation of applying for funding to begin the first phase of the Master Plan. The Town Administrator is working with ACOG and will be submitting the letters of intent for funding prior to the end of May.
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. CC&I Services has closed out several code violation cases and continues to address those properties that are in violation. Multiple dilapidated structures have been taken down and new homes are being constructed in place of these properties.
5. The UpAhead mass text platform is now live, and many individuals have signed up to take advantage of this method of communication.
6. The Town Administrator attended the quarterly Duke Energy Regional Advisory Board meeting as a member of this board. Several topics were discussed, including an update on Duke Energy's response to the devastation left behind from Hurricane Helene.
7. The Town Administrator applied for and the Town will be receiving \$3500 in funding from a Duke Energy grant that will be utilized for improvements and maintenance to Gibb's Park.
8. The Town Administrator and Police Chief attended the Cherokee County Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program (ADSAP) luncheon, along with the Blacksburg Police Department's DUI enforcement award recipient, Officer Gunter. Officers from each of the county's law enforcement agencies were recognized for their efforts to keep the roadways of Cherokee County Safe.
9. Two separate grant projects were submitted to the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority on some much-needed projects to address growth, future growth, and aging water lines.
10. The Town Administrator completed a 7-week Management and Supervision Training in Local Government through the Appalachian Council of Governments in March.
11. The Town Administrator and the administration team continue to work with FEMA for public assistance due to Hurricane Helene.
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 469 calls for service in March of 2025.
14. The Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department had 78 calls for service in March of 2025.
15. The Town has completed the final Period of FY25. The Town has spent approximately 91.34% of the FY25 budget of \$3,240,650.