

M E M O



TO:	Mayor and Council	CC:	Steve Commons	Andy Conyers
FROM:	Larry Stevens, City Manager		Jim Smith	Cinda Covell
DATE:			Steve Murdock	Natalie Evans
			Kathy Panas	Ryan Ochsner
			Casey Moore	Nicole Koehn
SUBJECT:	Monthly Progress Report –April, 2021			

1. Intersection Improvements: 2nd & Bryant

The bid opening was held last week, and there is an item on your agenda tonite to award this project to the low bidder, Crossland Heavy Construction. The project will include the installation of dual left-turn and single right-turn lanes in all directions. A one-year construction time frame is projected. Funding will come from the 2017 repurposed capital improvements sales tax.

This project will be a major inconvenience for both the travelling public and businesses in the area, and we ask for everyone's patience during the coming year.

We had three bidders on the project, and the low bid was almost \$1.7M above the engineer's estimate. This cost scenario is unfortunately very typical of projects we have bid over the past couple of years, as the high price of construction materials continues to result in much more expensive projects. As one example, you will recall the low bid for the Covell Widening project from Fairfax to Griffin was \$1.5M over the engineer's estimate.

2. Repaving of 33rd & Kelly Intersection

This much-needed project started last week. The contractor is All Roads Paving and the cost is slightly over \$911,000. The time frame for completion is estimated at 90 calendar days. This is one of several projects included in the now annual concrete rehab portion of our Street Overlay program, in the Street Maintenance and Construction budget in the General Fund.

3. Redevelopment of Stephenson Park

Freese and Nichols is the design firm for the project, and they will soon be completing the 90% plan submittal now that the drainage options have been coordinated and finalized. The regional detention will greatly improve the potential development of the property from 2nd Street south to the park between Broadway and Boulevard. We also believe the park and museum could be a focal point for a small development district.

F&N will have a revised plan and timeline within the next two weeks. The plan is to bid the project in August or September and start construction soon after the award. We'll also know more specific timelines concerning facets of the project as we get closer to the bid date.

The bulk of the funding will come from the 2017 repurposed capital improvements sales tax, with some support from the Park Tax. The drainage improvements will come from the 2000 capital improvements sales tax.

4. Expansion of Gracelawn Cemetery

An additional 21 acres directly north of the cemetery was purchased a few years ago since we were running out of space, and this expansion will utilize 7 of those acres and provide 25 years of inventory. This City-owned and operated cemetery was founded in 1895. The expansion area will have a more park-like feel and will offer new options such as a columbaria (a place to store cremated remains) and a committal shelter (a pavilion to have internment services away from the gravesite).

Construction began last June and completion is expected this June, with most of remaining work involving the committal shelter and the columbaria. We will begin selling plots and niches in the new area when construction is complete. Wynn Construction has been an excellent contractor to work with in this project. The cost of the project is \$3.2M, with funding coming from the 2017 repurposed capital improvements sales tax.

5. Sales & Use Taxes

Our tenth reimbursement check of the fiscal year from the State reflects the revenue collections for February. Although the monthly numbers declined these totals remain very encouraging for the year. Monthly sales tax collections were only 2.3% above last year, but cumulatively we are still above 4% for the year, at almost 4.2% compared to 4.3% a month ago. Use taxes were up over 21% from the same month a year ago, and still cumulatively over 25% above for the year. Combined numbers are 8.6% above last year. Sales tax was budgeted for zero growth this year and use taxes were projected for a 5% increase.

Respectfully submitted
Larry Stevens
City Manager