

City Manager's Report
Brian J. Borne, Interim City Manager
Week Ending May 13, 2022

Charlotte Monroe Executive Airport
Peter Cevallos, Manager, Charlotte Monroe Executive Airport

Retirement:



Carmen Crump will be retiring from the City of Monroe with 30 years of service, spending 21 years at the Police Department and the remaining time at the Airport. As the Airport Administrative Assistant, Carmen has been an integral part of the Airport staff, and assisted many City and Airport customers over the years. We are very proud of her ability and her efforts handling all aspects of the airport administration. While we hate to see her go, the Airport staff and based community wish her well for retirement and all her future endeavors.

Engineering
Sarah McAllister, Director, Engineering

Upcoming Stormwater NPDES Audit:

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) inspectors will visit the City of Monroe on May 24th and 25th to do a full audit of the Stormwater program. The City qualifies as a Phase II community as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) program, which is federally mandated under the Clean Water Act. The NPDES MS4 program aims to protect water quality through stormwater pollution prevention and mitigation at a local level. The NCDEQ auditors will review stormwater documentation, perform interviews with Engineering staff and go on site visits to randomly selected City-owned facilities, construction sites, Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) and stormwater outfalls. The purpose of the audit is to verify the City is implementing the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) and that the deliverables satisfy the six measures required by the Phase II permit: Public Education; Public Involvement; Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; Construction Site Runoff Controls; Post-Construction Stormwater Management; and, Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for municipal operations.

Fire

Ron Fowler, Chief, Fire Department

Accreditation Site Visit:

The Fire Department is in the process of seeking re-accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). As a part of the re-accreditation process, CFAI assembles a team of peer assessors from around the country to review the documentation and conduct an on-site assessment of the department. The team assigned to Monroe has reviewed the documentation, which was provided in March, and will be in Monroe the week of May 22nd to conduct the on-site assessment. The team will arrive on May 22nd and depart on May 26th. We will provide an update on the site assessment findings following the site assessment.

Fire Station 6 Request for Qualifications:

A Request for Qualifications was sent out in early April for Architectural Design and Construction Administration for Fire Station 6. The deadline for proposal submissions is May 27th.

Spring Hydrant Inspections:

Spring fire hydrant inspections are currently underway by fire department members. The inspections include checks for proper operation along with any necessary grass trimming and painting. These inspections help ensure reliability during emergencies and provide valuable rating classification credit for the City's fire insurance rating.



Catawba Water Search and Rescue Drill:

Members of Monroe's Swift Water Rescue Team recently participated in a statewide search and rescue drill in Burke County. The drill involved various disciplines and multiple state and local jurisdictions. Objectives of the drill provided swift water rescue teams the ability to test their skills in locating and rescuing victims in swift water, search and rescue of victims in a wilderness environment and enhancement of National Incident Management System (NIMS) skills and abilities.



This drill provided realistic search scenarios resulting in excellent training opportunities, while providing networking opportunities between teams and state emergency management officials.



Fire Department Personnel Accomplishments:

Congratulations to Firefighter Recruits Jamie Bergen, Ethan Whitley, Chad Aldridge and Caleb Baucom on passing their NC State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) exam. This is a difficult course, with a stressful state exam, and we congratulate them on obtaining their EMT Certification!

Congratulations to Firefighter Ryan Moore on his promotion to Engineer!

Captain Kevin Philemon has been appointed as Interim Fire Marshal following the retirement of Division Chief/Fire Marshal Carter Plyler. Congratulations to Chief Plyler on his retirement and to Captain Philemon on his appointment to serve in this interim capacity.

Deputy Chief Greg Collins has completed the UNC School of Government Municipal and County Administration course. This comprehensive course, over an eight-month period, is designed for appointed city and county officials whose responsibilities require an understanding of local government functions beyond individual areas of specialization. Major subject areas include local government law, organization and management, finance and budgeting, public employment law, planning and regulation of development, and municipal and county services.

Energy Services

Rob Miller, Interim Director, Energy Services

Electric Division

Mr. Lee Robertson passed away on May 7, 2022. Lee retired from the City of Monroe Electric Division in 2016 after 28 years of service. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Natural Gas Division

Mr. Kevin Rowland started on May 9, 2022 as a Utility Locator I.

Parks and Recreation

Ryan Jones, Director, Parks and Recreation

Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC):

Water Park Pop-Up? Say What!

On May 7th, the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center (MAFC) held an early season water park day. Yes, a Water Park Pop-Up! That means the water park is officially ready for its Summer 2022 opening on Friday May 27th. We were so happy to add close to 80 new members and saw over 20 reactivations in one day!

In conjunction with the Water Park Pop-Up, the MAFC was alive with the participants for the Run With A Hero Fun Run, food trucks, bounce houses and event booths. Sponsored by the Monroe Police and Fire Departments, a slew of young runners, and not so young runners, jogged, ran, walked and enjoyed the comradery of the entire event.





Parks Maintenance:

Parks Maintenance continues to keep up with the growing grass and other exciting projects. We have completed the Dickerson Recreation Complex Outdoor Court project. The goals for the full court will be installed this week and will be ready for usage after that installation. The courts look **OUTSTANDING!**



Parks Maintenance was also able to replace the playground at J. Ray Shute. It is open and ready for play!



Recreation:

Community Centers

Summer Camp registration at Dickerson Community Center is full with a waiting list. This is the earliest we have been completely full since the department has provided this program.

Community Center Beyond the Bell participants met at the Old Armory Community Center to celebrate Arbor Day. They were able to plant two trees and learn about the benefits that trees provide to the planet. Participants enjoyed the playground, arts and crafts, backyard games and pizza!



New Hires:

The Recreation Division is excited to welcome Jason Barrino as the newest member of the Recreation Division team. He will be supervising the Winchester Community Center as the Recreation Center Supervisor at that facility. Jason's first day is May 16th.

The Spring/Summer Program Guide is ready and we have a ton of activities, camps and recreational opportunities in store for the residents and those living in surrounding areas. Click on the link below to take a look:



Athletics:

Youth Flag Football Registration began May 1st and will end June 30th (limited spots available). Practices are scheduled to tentatively begin July 11th. Youth Flag Football practices and games take place on the Union Academy Athletic fields located along M.L. King,Jr. Boulevard.

Kinder Sports (Tennis) clinic will take place on June 11th from 9:00 am – 10:30 am at Dickerson Outdoor Tennis Courts. Registration may be found online here. This program is intended for children ages 2-4. We are very excited to offer this program to our youngest athletes.

Offered in partnership with the WNBA, Her Time to Play Camp(s) will be offered to help engage and support girls and women throughout different communities within the City of Monroe through

the game of basketball. This program pairs on-court trainings with off-court life skills lessons to build girls' confidence, prepare them for the challenges of adolescence and teach values of teamwork. Her Time to Play is a new initiative created by the WNBA and NBA to inspire the next generation of girls, ages 7-10 and 11-14, to play basketball in a positive and healthy way. This program is FREE to all girls interested in participating. Registration may be found online [here](#).

The Youth Track and Field Program competed in their first track meet of the season on May 7th at Forest Hills High School. Upcoming track meets are scheduled to be held: May 14th at Union Academy High School; and, May 21st at Monroe High School.



Special Events:

We had a great time at the first Movie in the Park on April 29th. *Encanto* was a hit and so were the food trucks!



Carolina Soul Band will be taking the stage on May 20th. Come check out the band and the food trucks on site! We had an incredible crowd last month when the Legacy Motown Revue rocked Downtown!

NOW ON FRIDAYS

City of Monroe
Parks & Recreation

2022 MUSIC ON MAIN Line-Up

Music begins at 6:30 PM

05/20

Carolina Soul Band

Band sponsored by:

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

North Carolina Arts Council
Fifty years of leadership

For more information contact Rae Moore at 704-282-4663 or
rmoore@monroenc.org

Planning and Development Department
Lisa Stiwinter, Director, Planning and Development

Community Development Division:

Advertising and publications to announce the open application process for the City of Monroe's Urgent Repair Program and City of Monroe's Mortgage and Foreclosure Assistance Program has started. In addition, lot surveying and house plan selection has been completed and the recruitment process has started for an affordable homeownership opportunity under the City of Monroe and Union-Anson County Habitat for Humanity's Work Force Housing Project targeted to the City's Fire or Police Department, preference. The program will utilize the City's down payment assistance workforce housing program. The new construction will be located in the Winchester Redevelopment Area at 415 Hill Street and will be approximately 1600 square feet with three bedrooms and two baths.

Permitting

Permit Revenue- includes Building, Planning, Fire and Engineering

<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2021</i>	<i>FY 2022</i> <i>7/1/22 – 4/30/22</i>
\$412,148.79	\$1,131,453.87	\$1,642,654.13

New Single-Family Dwelling Permits Issued:

<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2021</i>	<i>FY 2022</i> <i>7/1/22 – 4/30/22</i>
131	378	563

April (Monthly) Total permit counts:

<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
229	425	556

Planning Division

The Board of Adjustment and Historic District Commission have open seats.

The Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial board. This Board hears and makes decisions on Special Use Permits, Variances, and Appeals.

The Historic District Commission makes quasi-judicial decisions on matters within the Historic District. You must either live in the district or have a demonstrated special interest, experience, or education in history, architectural, archaeology, or related fields to serve on this Commission.

Please note if you are interested in serving on one of these boards, you must attend at least one meeting prior to applying to serve on a Board. The application is on the City's website (<https://www.monroenc.org/City-Council/Committees/Committee-Application>) . If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Department at 704-282-4520.

Project Submittals

The Planning Division had the following projects submitted in the first half of May:

Board of Adjustment

- Variance Request for property located at 650 W. Roosevelt Boulevard.

*All meeting agendas and packets can be found at the following link:
<https://monroenc.civicclerk.com/web/home.aspx>

Water Resources

Russ Colbath, Director, Water Resources

Creativity and Hard work = Cost Savings: With WTP Ammonia System Upgrade

The John Glenn Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is a \$100+ million dollar drinking water factory that must run at optimum performance every hour of the day, 365 days per year. At the heart of the drinking water process is a series of complex chemical feed systems to allow proper treatment of the water.

The WTP Staff was faced with an aging 20+ year old ammonia feed system. This original system was designed by an outside engineering consulting firm and installed in the early 2000's to allow the City to meet the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, Disinfection By-Product Rule. WTP Chief Operator Robbie Jenkins and WTP Operator III Josh Lemmond took the initiative to design and construct a replacement system. The new system provided the following benefits:

- Easy to use –old regulators were electronic were hard to set and maintain
- Reliability – the new ammonia units are easier to operate and maintain, and allowed coordination with new chlorine analyzers needed for continuous monitoring requirement.
- Functionality- sample ports were added for WTP Chemist to do weekly checks. Piping coupon racks were also installed for corrosion control sampling.

- Eliminated the spaghetti maze of pipes and wires on the wall that were difficult to operate and maintain.
- Repaired leaks to allow the sample drains to keep the floor dry, thereby increasing safety.

The before and after photos below show this excellent improvement to the ammonia feed system. In addition, all work was completed for \$8,000. Had this improvement been designed by a consulting engineer and bid out to a contractor, it could have easily exceeded \$75,000. So a big shout out to Robbie and Josh for using creativity and skills to compete this improvement in-house and a large savings to the City.

WTP Ammonia System - Before



WTP Ammonia System – After



Water Resources New Hires, Advancements, and Retirements

Advancements:

Brandon Anderson was promoted to Crew Leader I in the Water Resources Construction Division.