

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: July 3, 2014

1. Zoning Hearing Examiner Decision – Amber Ridge

Late last week, the City received the Zoning Hearing Examiner's (ZHE) decision regarding the above-referenced case. The ZHE recommended approval, subject to conditions, which are related to area transportation and road improvements, and guidelines to be observed during the preparation and review of the CSP, Preliminary Plan and SDP. The issue regarding the US 301 median cut-through and half-signal "may be revisited at (a) future stage in the development process." None of the City's conditions, or any of the issues Council indicated needed to be addressed as the project moves forward, as specified in the City's letter to the ZHE dated May 13, 2014, were included in the decision. Within 30 days of the ZHE's decision, which was filed with the District Council on June 24th, any person of record may file an exception to the decision with the Clerk of the Council and may request Oral Argument.

2. Swearing-in of Police Officers

Two officers will be sworn-in Monday night during your Council Meeting:

- PFC Natalie Harris of Clinton has five years' experience with the Prince George's County Police Department.
- Police Officer Craig Mathew of Burtonsville has one year's experience with the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

3. Cooperative Purchase of Diesel Fuel

The Council of Governments has opted to renew the current contract for the cooperative purchase of diesel fuel. The current supplier of diesel fuel in truck transport quantities is Mansfield Oil and their contract calls for a net differential of \$-.0089 per gallon to be applied to the price published on the Oil Price Information Sheet (OPIS). The published price as of June 29, 2014, was \$3.0579. The City's beginning contract price will be \$3.049 (\$3.0579 - \$.0089) per gallon. As with other fuel purchases, the price of diesel will increase or decrease based on the published OPIS price.

Mansfield Oil is also the current supplier of diesel fuel in tank wagon quantities. That net differential is \$.1348 per gallon for delivery bringing the cost for tank wagon deliveries to \$3.1927 (\$3.0579 + \$.1348) per gallon.

Pursuant to Section 62 of the City Charter, the City Council shall be given seven days notice prior to entering into a purchase agreement of this type. This contract extension will run through April 2015.

4. Alert Bowie 2.0

Over the next few weeks, the City of Bowie, like other governments in the National Capital Region (NCR) will be moving to a new vendor for its alerting system. Everbridge is the Boston-based company that was awarded the bid for the region after an extensive evaluation of regional needs and the offerings of various vendors. The new product, which we're calling Alert Bowie 2.0, provides more options and more flexibility in how alerts are sent and received, including the ability to send telephone calls to landline phones and mobile phones. This feature was used successfully in Watertown, Massachusetts, after the Boston Marathon bombings to warn residents to stay indoors while police conducted a door-to-door search for one of the suspects. Other features will allow for the sending of messages to targeted subscribers in a particular area on a map, and will provide new account holders with the option of receiving automated weather alerts of their choosing for up to five locations in the US.

Ultimately we believe Alert Bowie 2.0 will be a vast improvement to our current system, which has 6,600 subscribers, but like anything new, there will be challenges as we go through the transition. Because of differences in how the systems operate, email and cell phone information can be moved to the new system, but accounts and passwords will not transfer. For this reason, all current Alert Bowie subscribers will be asked to create an account on the new system. Residents will continue to receive alerts via the old system during the transition, but they will not be able to update their information or take advantage of the new system features until they create an account.

Articles about Alert Bowie 2.0 will be in the local papers and current subscribers will soon receive information about the upcoming changes and what they need to do. We will also promote the system at various City events and using other communications channels like message boards, social media, the Spotlight. We also plan to do outreach to HOAs and community groups and will hold signup days at the Senior Center and other public facilities later this summer.