



City of CHARLOTTE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Armitage and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: City Manager Report

DATE: August 7, 2020

City Clerk. Ginger Terpstra has announced her retirement and submitted a letter of resignation. Her last day of work will be August 31, 2020. Ginger has worked for the City for more than 41 years during which time she has demonstrated a commitment to the highest standards of professionalism, dedication and loyalty. She has been an invaluable member of the management team and will be greatly missed.

Firefighter Representation Election. The City's full-time firefighters have submitted a petition to the state asking to be represented by the International Association of Firefighters. The election on the question of representation will be held later this month. It is important that Council and management staff maintain a neutral stance on this question and not be seen as attempting to influence the decision of the firefighters.

Code Enforcement Report. The agenda packet includes an updated report on property maintenance code enforcement actions. Prior reports provided over the last several months covered the period beginning July 1, 2019. With this report, I have switched to a rolling twelve-month listing. Additional data on code enforcement will still be available should you wish to see it.

Election. The primary election conducted this week proceeded very well. Ginger, other City staff and the poll workers all met the challenge of conducting an election during a pandemic. Voter turnout was at 30%, considerably higher than for prior primary elections, with the vast majority opting to vote absentee. Measures were in place to ensure voter and poll worker safety. This was a good test for what will be needed for the November election when turnout will be even greater.

Water/Sewer Past Due Amounts. You might recall that one of the pandemic-related executive orders prohibited shutting off water for non-payment. In an effort to provide financial relief to residents whose employment was affected by isolation orders and to encourage payment of utilities, City Council suspended late payment charges through the end of June. At that point, I began monitoring

past due amounts. The following table provides a look at the status of each quarterly billing cycle. What it shows is that, as before the pandemic, a number of customers fail to pay their bills on time. The inability to use the threat of shut-off to encourage payment means that larger amounts are being carried forward more than 30 days after the original payment due date.

Section	Last Billed	Past Due 6/30	Past Due 7/31
Blue	June	\$51,862.26	\$30,900.02
Buff	July	\$22,296.08	\$44,294.77
Green	May	\$16,464.67	\$11,028.35
Total		\$90,623.01	\$86,223.14

Act 51 Payments. It was expected that the State’s payment to the City of its share of revenues for maintenance and repair of streets would be reduced due to the pandemic. This was a consequence of isolation orders that caused people to drive less thus spending less on gasoline. It was not known for certain how much the City’s payments would be reduced or when they might recover. The following table seems to indicate that payments for June show a recovery to levels of the prior year. We should anticipate, however, that payments in July and August might be below 2019 levels due to reductions in tourism-related travel in the state. These data do not account for variations in the price of fuel.

Month	2019	2020
March	\$81,952.38	\$74,287.11
April	\$69,916.26	\$61,801.16
May	\$78,671.85	\$53,686.46
June	\$74,687.85	\$74,791.18