

## **The State of Our City...**

I normally provide this report for our January newsletter. However, here is an update on the city's progress.

We currently have three USDA projects underway. The Paxville Water Extension is completed. The purpose of this project was to extend water service to Paxville; approximately 300 potential water customers. To date, 95 new customers have signed up. This was a \$4M project and our payment to USDA is \$13,000 mo/40 years.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade (Phase I) is running on schedule and we're currently \$900,000 under budget. The purpose of this project is to increase our wastewater capacity from 2.5 to 5 million gallons per day. The total cost for three phases is twenty one million and our payment to USDA is \$41,161 mo/40 years. The proposed completion date is the Summer of 2016.

The Alcolu Water and Sewer Expansion is in progress. The purpose of this project is to extend water and sewer service to the Alcolu community. Currently, we have 30 proposed customers. The total cost for this project is \$350,000 and our payment to USDA is \$1,103 mo/40 years. We have also received requests from business owners and residents of Alcolu to extend our current project. The proposed completion date is Spring 2015.

Our fire station renovation and addition is going well. The purpose of this project is to provide our firemen with better accommodations and have a modern emergency center. The total cost of this project is \$935,000 and our payment is \$40,000 annually. The proposed completion date is June 2015.

The West Manning Water Improvement Project is in the design phase. This is a 100% Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant in the amount of \$350,000. The purpose of this project is to upgrade water lines in the Western section of town; provide increased water pressure and fire protection; and paint the water tank on Keitt Street, also known as the "big blue bulb". The proposed completion date is December 2015.

The Mill Street Streetscape Project is in the design phase. The purpose of this project is to enhance both sides of Mill Street from Boyce Street down to Rigby Street, to include sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping. The First Baptist Church of Manning has done such a great job with their project that we're interested in further enhancing this area. This project is funded by a \$240,000 SC Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant and transportation funds from Clarendon County. The proposed completion date is December 2015.

The Municipal Parking Lot will be in the bid phase in February 2015. The purpose of this project is to create a paved parking lot behind City Hall. We have received \$120,000 in transportation funds from Clarendon County to fund this project. The proposed completion date is the Fall of 2015.

The Fleming Community Revitalization Project is in the start-up phase. The purpose of this project is to rid the city of 15 dilapidated structures. This project is funded by a \$230,000 Community Development Block Grant. The proposed completion date is December 2015.

We are also seeking funding for two other projects, the Red Barn Project and the West Huggins Street Sidewalk Addition. The purpose of the proposed \$1.8M projects is to renovate the Red Barn into a Public Meeting and Event Space. The West Huggins Street Project is in the planning and funding phase. The purpose is to install a new sidewalk from Fellowship Church to

Bellewood Court. We have requested \$207,000 in transportation funds from Clarendon County.

I would also like to report that there was a decrease in the crime rate in 2014; for more information see article below from Police Chief Blair Shaffer. Overall, we can consider our city a safe place to live.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, words of encouragement and support during my journey to restored health.

As always, I would like to thank each of you for your contribution in making our city true to its motto: "Matchless for Beauty and Hospitality".

The People's Mayor

*Julia A. Nelson*