



July 8, 2014

As part of the street update promised in the last letter, there are several projects under way. The work on Collin Street is progressing. Work is nearing completion between 24th Street and 20th Street and between 24th Street and 28th Street. The intersection of Collin Street and 24th Street has been closed and is being completely reconstructed. The design will match the proposed construction on 24th Street. This phase is scheduled to be complete August 1, 2014. The entire project is scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.

Work will begin soon on the North 24th Street Reconstruction Project. The initial portion of the project will be utility work, including relocating telephone and electrical poles and gas lines. The City has marked the property lines, and all activity will take place from the street to the actual property line. Phase two of the project will be the reconstruction of the pavement. This phase is currently being considered by the Council for funding. The project, from West 7th Avenue to West 3rd Avenue and from West 1st Avenue to Lexington Drive, is expected to take approximately three to four years. The project will be in stages, meaning three or four blocks at a time will be reconstructed. Your patience is especially appreciated as the City moves forward with this important project. Before the work on 24th Street begins, North 26th will receive repair so that it will be able to handle the additional traffic that will be detoured to this street.

There are smaller projects which will be completed this summer around the City. The work on North 13th and North Main will be completed. Commerce Street between 1st Avenue and 2nd Avenue will be reconstructed. Hackberry Avenue and Boyd Avenue will be completed. There will be approximately 3,500 tons of asphalt placed on various streets before September. This will be cost-effective and will improve the roadways for a long time.

Another project being considered by the Council is the completion of the reconstruction of Forrest Lane to the railroad tracks. Projects being evaluated instead of total reconstruction are an overlay of Dobbins from the railroad to Highway 22 and an overlay of 2nd Avenue from 37th Street to 45th Street.

Street projects are expensive and time consuming when constructed correctly. To rebuild a street the old pavement must be removed. It will be in disarray and if it rains it will be muddy. It is all part of the process to improve the City for many years to come. I ask for your tolerance during the process.

Sincerely,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor