June 13, 2023 Council Meeting				
Item	**Question/Request and who made by**	**Responsible Staff/ Dept.**	**CM/ ACM**	**Staff response/update**
CM Report: IRC	AM: Reason for the East Asheville Pump Station coming offline in 2010	David Melton/ Water	BW	The booster pump station was designed to help restore hydraulic grade in the west and south during periods of high demand. The pump station was built prior to the Mills River plant coming online. Many system upgrades minimized the need to overcome the head loss. The pump station was only used a few times since construction. When the station was operated, staff had to be on site for monitoring pressure & other parameters, and leaks still occurred in the lower points of the water system. With the high cost associated with bringing the station back into service, the decision was made to allocate funds to more urgent/pressing capital projects.
CM Report: IRC	ST: Provide details on why the 24 inch valve in River Arts District was closed? Could SCADA be set up to notify staff of that closure?	David Melton/ Water	BW	The exact details are not known, however, the timelines suggest that it could have been closed during a main line (24") break that occurred in the area in 2019. A contractor was relocating/replacing a section of the same line in the area and experienced a pipe-fitting failure. It is unclear if City staff or possibly the contractor's staff closed the valve during the emergency. SCADA is used in cases where remote operation and/or remote monitoring is needed for operating the water system. This is limited to control valves versus normal line-valves.
CM Report: IRC	ST: Is it possible to more accurately estimate the number of customers that lost water service?	David Melton/ Water	BW	With the current available data and complex system challenges, it is not possible to accurately estimate the number of customers that lost water service.
CM Report: IRC	ST: What is the plan to weatherize and ensure the Mills River Plant is resilient?	David Melton/ Water	BW	**Immediately after the water outage:** ● The service representative for the AUMA actuators (Perkinson) came to the Mills River WTP and provided a full service on the inlet and drain valves on Mills River WTP filters #1, 2, and 3. This included disassembly of the actuator gearboxes, replacement of internal "O" rings that keep moisture out of the gearbox, the removal of ice and water that had frozen within the gearboxes, the removal and replacement of grease in the gearbox with a higher grade of moisture resistant grease. ● The aluminum sulfate line was replumbed where it goes through the wall on

				its way to the rapid mixers. ● New chemical lines were run to rapid mixers #1 and #2 (aluminum sulfate and caustic soda chemical feed lines). ● Additional pipe insulation was added to chemical feed lines where they exit the building to go to the rapid mixers. ● Additional insulation added to the chemical feed line cover where these lines exit the building. ● Verification that all heat tracing was functional and working. ● Purchase of additional heat tape that can be used to wrap and heat outside equipment if needed. ● Review of the Mills River WTP chemical feed system and additional changes that can be made with CDM Smith Engineering. ● Additional employee training. ● The cold weather standard operating procedure (SOP) was updated EMS-WP009 Advanced Cold Weather Preparation.pdf **Future Actions to be taken in Mills River WTP Phase 2 Upgrades:** ● Caustic soda tanks will be replaced and the new tank will be equipped with a blanket heater around the tank. ● New tanks will be oriented with their internal overflows pointed away from chemical feed lines to remove cold air sump. ● All chemical feed lines to rapid mixers #1 and #2 will be heat traced to the point where they enter the rapid mixer. ● The inlet and drain valve actuators on filters #1, 2, and 3, will be replaced with weather resistant actuators. ● Additional heating sources will be located within the chemical feed area to provide more heat. ● Aluminum sulfate lines will be replumbed where they go through the wall to avoid elbows that obstruct the flow of aluminum sulfate to eliminate the possibility of clogging. ● A watertight partition will be installed between rapid mixers #1 and #2 to allow employees to access and replumb these systems without shutting down the entire plant. ● Underwater lighting will be added within the Mills River WTP sediment basins to allow employees at night to more easily see the formation of flocc, which will help confirm the success of the treatment process. ● Additional employee training. ● Additional opportunities will be investigated as Phase #2 planning continues.

Additional Staff Updates				
Item	**Question/Request and who made by**	**Responsible Staff/ Dept.**	**CM/ ACM**	**Status/response**
June PED Agenda	Provide information about changes to the 2024 Special Events Program	DCREF/ Legal	BW	Staff has provided preliminary information to the full Council as part of the June 12 PED agenda materials.
Update on strategic priority work session	Update on the strategic priority work session	CMO	RW	The strategic priority work session follow-up materials are inked in the 6/22 Agenda Briefing materials
Status update on the I-26 Connector Project	KR: Following up on our action at Council, what does it look like for the City Manager's office to have sent a letter to DOT regarding the I-26 Connector Aesthetics Committee recommendations? We also voted to have the City Manager send letters of support for neighborhood recommendations, specifically impacted neighborhoods of Montford, Hillcrest, and Burton Street. Can we get copies of what has been submitted from the Manager's office to DOT and/or a timeline of when they will be submitted?	Ken Putnam/ Transportation	RW	Ken Putnam will provide a status update on the I-26 Connector Project as part of the July 25 City Manager's Report. Mr. Putnam's update will include information on mitigation strategies for impacted neighborhoods. Mr. Putnam is currently reviewing any recommendations for the Burton Street, Montford, and Hillcrest communities to be sure all are appropriately documented with the Chair of the Aesthetics Committee. The letter acknowledging the Council's support of the I-26 recommendations by impacted neighborhood will be distributed to NCDOT within the next week. Additionally, NCDOT is currently drafting a letter in response to this letter from the Burton Street Community Association requesting amendments to NCDOT's mitigation strategies for the Burton Street Neighborhood associated with the I-26 Connector Project. A copy of NCDOT's response will be provided to Council and further described as part of Mr. Putnam's July 25 presentation.