

Energy Resources employees honored for lifesaving heroics



Jonathan Ballard, an apprentice lineman with the Energy Resources Department, was seriously injured and rendered unconscious on Friday, June 2, when he came in contact with an energized electric line while working in a 4 ½ foot deep mud hole.

After de-energizing the line, Energy Resources employees Spencer Leonard, James Turner, Joshua Nunn and 1st Class Contract Lineman Thomas Godley used a rope to Ballard's body out of the hole. They then started administering CPR, called 911 and used an automated external defibrillator on Ballard.

When Fire Department personnel arrived, they found that Ballard had no pulse. They were able to restore his spontaneous circulation by performing CPR, applying their AED and using a bag mask for ventilation. Police Department employees also assisted.

Ballard was taken by ambulance to UNC Health Nash and then flown in a medical helicopter to a hospital in Chapel Hill, where he made a speedy recovery. Ballard has since returned to work.

At Monday night's City Council meeting, the crew members who initially aided Ballard received resolutions from the ElectricCities of North Carolina Inc. board of directors. The resolutions were presented by ElectricCities Chief Strategy Officer Andy Fusco.

The City Council also approved a resolution thanking Leonard, Turner, Nunn, Godley and employees from the Fire Department and Police Department for their heroic actions in saving Ballard's life.

Ballard's mother, Tara Ballard, expressed her gratitude to Leonard, Turner, Nunn and Godley on behalf of herself and her husband, police Capt. Chris Ballard.

"They did not have to step up and do what they did. I am sure it was a terrifying situation in the heat of the moment," Tara Ballard said. "It takes a lot of courage."