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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, City Manager
DATE: May 4, 2018
RE: Weekly Update

Happy Star Wars Day! Please see below for this week's update.

Meetings

- On Tuesday, staff continued our meetings with area industrial businesses to discuss ongoing odor issues. As previously noted, several of the companies are making progress in addressing potential odor issues, and we're asking them to provide information, if they're willing, about their operations and efforts on this topic. On Monday, we'll be issuing a press release with information from the first company to respond to our request, Heartland Pet Food Manufacturing. We are hopeful that other companies will follow suit.
- On Thursday, staff met with the members of the citizen's task force to further discussions on the use tax, which will be on the ballot in August. For the benefit of our new council members, the city cannot take a position ("Vote Yes" or "Vote No") on a ballot issue, we can only educate the citizens about the issue. So for that reason, staff will be working on putting together the informational literature and list of organizations that the citizen's committee can use. The citizen's committee has developed two subgroups, one that will focus on fundraising efforts, and one to work with the Chamber of Commerce on the advocacy piece (if their policy board chooses to advocate for the issue).

Other Updates

- From Health Director Pekarek, last week we had our annual immunization program audit from the state health department and had a good overall report. They look at the everything in the program from how we store vaccines to whether children are current in their immunization series. Of 11 immunization series that we manage, we were only a bit behind our local goal percentages in three of them, and a bit behind in only one of the eight national goals that we follow. But I'd like to recognize and applaud the efforts of our medical services team, led by our Medical Services Coordinator Cynthia Burnham, for their efforts towards another successful program audit.
- Similarly, our airport recently underwent a TSA security inspection by regional TSA representatives, and we received very favorable comments from the inspection team. Hats off to airport staff Steve Stockam, Peter Kaufmann, and Melissa Hunter, as well as PD representative Shelby Howard, for their efforts during this inspection.

- June 1st will mark the 30th anniversary of the creation of the CVB, and next week also marks National Travel and Tourism Week. To recognize these events/milestones, the CVB:
 - Will have an open house next week, May 7-11, from 9-11 a.m. and from 2-4 p.m. The public is invited to stop by, and we will host an exhibit of enlarged postcards featuring past Joplin motels.
 - On May 17th as part of Third Thursday, several of our tourism partners from the attractions, arts, events, lodging and sports categories, will be setting up booths at 6th & Main. The first floor of city hall will also be open during this time for visitors to see the postcard display in the lobby.
 - On June 1st, CVB will have a ribbon cutting at 2:00 at the “Welcome to Joplin” sign in front of Cracker Barrel, with a reception to follow in the lobby of TownPlace Suites by Marriott, located at 4026 S. Arizona Avenue.
- I was contacted earlier this week by Brent Baker, VP of Liberty Utilities, to see if the city would be interested in exploring the feasibility of a micro grid energy system downtown, in partnership between Liberty, the Southwest Power Pool, the Chamber of Commerce, MSSU and Crowder College, funded by Liberty and the US Department of Energy. The project would include solar canopy parking, electric vehicle charging stations, energy storage facilities and block chain energy trading capacity. Because the project would require no funding from the city, and only representation in the group, I signed a letter of support written to the DOE indicating our interest in the project. More to come as events unfold, but the timeline for implementation would be somewhere within the next 12 months if approved.

If you have any questions about these items, please let me know. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you on Monday night. May the Fourth be with you.