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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, City Manager
DATE: 1/30/2015
RE: Weekly Report

Good evening, everyone. This week's report will actually cover the past two weeks of non-Wallace Bajjali related information.

Key Meetings

- On January 20th I met with staff and members of the Deloitte team to have a CDBG-DR project planning kick-off meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to lay out the process we will be using to evaluate the feasibility of the remaining CDBG-DR projects that have been presented or proposed to you since the funding was first received. Over the next three to four weeks, Deloitte will be gathering all necessary information from staff and community partners to evaluate the projects. After that is complete, staff will review those results, and ultimately we will present them to you over the course of two or three meetings so each project can be discussed and decided on by you. A graphical representation of the process as well as a list of projects known to date will be sent to you as soon as I receive it. This would be your opportunity to suggest other projects that may be considered, but to date we have some 40+ projects to (re)consider. It's important to keep in mind that several of the programs have already begun or been approved (J-HAP, Crosslines, infrastructure assessment, to name a few), so the full \$158 million will not be available.
- On January 21st Director Pekarek, Director Bolander, AtCM Kelly and I met with representatives from Cerner who are working on the "Healthy Nevada" initiative, of which one component is a community garden. The JACC Young Professionals Network has agreed to take over the management of our community garden, but we will be looking for additional partners to cooperate with to possibly grow the program (no pun intended).
- On January 22nd AtCM Kelly and I attended the MCMA Winter Workshop, held in Columbia, Missouri. The topics of discussion were succession planning and the challenges of multi-generational employees in the workplace. Mr. Kelly and I actually served on the planning committee for the event, and speakers included former police chief Lane Roberts, a former official with the Federal Reserve of KC, and a panel of speakers versed in the generational differences of employees and their impact on the work world.

- Moving into this week, on Tuesday Brian and I met to begin reviewing the salary survey data for our job classifications. Once all positions have been reviewed and the financial impact is known, we will be ready to present the results to you for review and comment before you make a decision on whether and how to proceed.
- Also on Tuesday, Director Haase and I met with Debby Woodin to answer questions about the disaster TIF and how it affects both the city and the school district. In short, the TIF is performing better than our best projections, but as we've told the school district and others before, until the outstanding debt is paid off, we cannot issue more TIF bonds or make the \$13 million payment to the school district. This is clearly spelled out in both the redevelopment agreement and the memorandum of understanding signed by Dr. Huff and David Wallace. The TIF is currently projected to pay off in 2026 or 2027 based on current collections, and at that point we can determine whether to issue more TIF bonds or close it out entirely (which would be our recommendation).
- On Wednesday I gave a talk to the YPN as part of their "EDTalk" series where young professionals get an opportunity to speak with the executives of various organizations. We spoke for an hour on a number of topics, followed by a discussion with their recycling sub-committee, who wanted to know where the city stands on the recycling initiative. As I told them, I will be asking our public works department to put together a bid package for the renewal of our residential trash service that includes multiple options that respondents can bid on – including our solid waste program as it currently exists, and various options that would include a recycling component. Our current agreement with Republic Services expires on March 31, 2016, so we will begin the bid process well before the contract expires.
- Later that afternoon, I participated in a conference call with Jacque Gage, the EDA, our library project manager, and staff to get an update and answer any questions EDA has about the 20th & Connecticut project. The EDA remains fully committed to the library project and that will be our primary focus until we know the direction the adjacent development will take. But the EDA did express an interest in continuing the discussion of funding public infrastructure on that project when the time is right and after we've developed the budget for the library. Assuming the contracts for the civil and architectural firms are approved by you on Monday night, we will begin the public engagement process to solicit input from the community about what they want to see in a 21st century library. I'm very excited about the project and the process moving forward.
- This morning, Director Haase and I met again to discuss the disaster TIF, this time with Darrin Wright with KZRG. They have invited us to their studio next Wednesday to answer questions on the air. Related to this topic, we will be working to provide more and better information on our website pertaining to the status of our redevelopment projects. We're also exploring other ideas to convey accurate information to the public as we move forward. I believe the process I outlined earlier pertaining to our review of the CDBG-DR projects will result in some renewed confidence from our residents and provide the transparency they expect and deserve.
- Finally, this afternoon I attended the first Joplin Regional Partnership meeting, formerly known as the Joplin Regional Prosperity Initiative. I do not have the ability to scan the financial information and other materials, but you will receive a copy of that information on Monday.

Miscellaneous

- You may have noticed that the new trolley has been out of service for the past week or so. We have had a transmission problem that should be addressed next week and the vehicle will be returned to service as quickly as possible.
- You may recall a previous discussion of renaming Hearnese Blvd. to Main Street. Soon we will be sending letters to businesses and residents on Hearnese Blvd. and going door-to-door to get their feedback about the name change. We have spoken with the representatives from the post office and they seem in favor of the switch, and from a public safety perspective, it always helps to have one street with the same name for the entirety of its length. There are fewer than 30 businesses or residences that will be affected, and if the change is met with your approval, the post office would continue to send mail to the new South Main address as well as the existing Hearnese Blvd. until everyone becomes accustomed to the new name. We will keep you posted (pun intended).
- Yesterday I received word that the new Mercy Hospital is officially “done”, at least from an inspection standpoint. All inspections have passed and their certificate of occupancy has been (or will be soon) issued. From our perspective the process went smoothly, but I would like to commend our building division, fire and health inspection staff for doing a tremendous job working with the hospital.
- Finally, earlier today I asked our human resources department to post the assistant city manager position. The position will be open until filled, but I will begin reviewing applications at the end of February. In light of this week’s events, I feel it is important at this time to bring on someone who can either help with our economic and redevelopment efforts, or hire someone who can help oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization while I focus on those endeavors. I intend to select the best person for the job, and depending on his or her strengths in these areas, I will determine which course of action is appropriate for me to take.

That’s all for this week. I look forward to seeing you on Monday night, but I will reach out to you Monday to answer any questions you may have about the agenda.

Have a great weekend (and here’s hoping for one that wasn’t as newsworthy as our last one)!