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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, City Manager
DATE: 2/6/2015
RE: Weekly Report

Happy Friday, everyone! This week was fairly light on the number of meetings I attended, so this report will lean more on the information-giving side of things.

Key Meetings

- On Tuesday afternoon and again this afternoon, AtCM Brian Kelly and I met to review pay plan information for several departments/positions; as we inch closer to having the salary data reviewed and applied to current personnel for all positions, I will be prepared to present that information to you. I'm not putting a timeline on it just yet, however.
- My Wednesday was pretty much shot after we informed the public that we terminated the contracts with Wallace Bajjali, as we received a number of calls and requests for interviews.
- But I rebounded nicely yesterday by attending a morning and afternoon discussion on the new library. I would like to thank Councilman Stanley for his participation in the leadership discussion that took place Thursday morning between staff, the architects, engineer and project manager. We went over the timeline for the process moving ahead, with the target date of November 22nd to begin construction. I am quite confident that we have the best team in place to make this project a success, and if you have not had an opportunity to attend one of the visioning sessions, it was exciting. This project has the potential to be a huge catalyst for redevelopment of the recovery zone, and despite some of the negative comments on social media, it was somewhat comforting to learn that those complaints are common in any community that decides to undertake a project like this. One statistic I heard was that for every dollar invested in a library, the ROI is over \$4 in terms of economic impact.

Miscellaneous

- HR and Finance staff have made some changes to our seasonal employee hiring process, and one of the recommendations that came out of that review is to add a seasonal clerk position to our pay plan. For the time being, we do not see a need to request that the current pay plan be amended, but as a heads up, that classification will be added in the future.
- Earlier this week, Chief Furgerson met with the Webb City fire chief about proving auto-aid in the northern part of Joplin, and they have asked us to reciprocate by assisting them

in the southern part of Webb City should the need arise. If any agreements need to be created that would require your input, we will bring them to you at the appropriate time.

- While doing research on the disaster TIF this week, we were informed by bond counsel that beginning in April, 2017, we can begin making extra payments on the principal amount, which would accelerate the pay-off of the TIF debt. In light of the recent news about the school district's position relative to the TIF, bond counsel will be providing staff and council with a summary of where we stand on that topic, but it has been confirmed that our statements to you and to the media remain accurate – until all of the TIF debt is paid off, we cannot make any “surplus” payments to the school district. More information will be presented to you when I receive it.
- On Monday we were informed by Republic Services that residents will see a \$.44 increase in their trash bills beginning in April due to an increase of 3.7% in CPI. As we move forward with the bid process for trash service, staff has recommended that we engage the Solid Waste Commission to help with public engagement/citizen input into our options for trash service with the next contract. Our current contract expires on March 31, 2016.
- We saw a .3% dip in trolley/MAPS ridership numbers for January 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, or a difference of 28 fewer riders.
- As a result of our new employee idea program, beginning on or around March 1st, our firefighters will begin a school reading program that would allow our fire fighters to read to elementary students as a way to further engage with our citizens, young and old. We have seen several good ideas brought forth by employees since the program was implemented in November, 2014.

In the Pipeline

- From our finance department, letters will be going out within the next few weeks to residents and businesses about two topics – one is for the usual business license renewal process and “no sales tax due” notices, and the other letter will be going out to residents who were affected by the tornado. Those residents who signed a Right of Entry (ROE) to allow FEMA contractors onto their property to assist with debris removal are required to confirm with the city whether they had full, partial or no insurance. If any property owner had insurance, they were informed that they may be required to pay back some of the cost of that debris removal. As such, two letters will be going out – an “all clear” letter, and an “amount due” letter if any money is owed.

I bring this to your attention because this may open some emotional wounds, and it's likely you may hear from some upset residents who may have felt that they didn't owe anything or never received notice, but staff has been working diligently with property owners, their insurance company, and with FEMA to ensure the information is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Should you receive any calls or complaints, please send them our way.

- Our court administrator has submitted the 2014 year-end report for municipal court operations. I will be reviewing that next week for distribution to you within the next week or so.

Enjoy the nice weather, and please have a great weekend.