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TO: City Council  
FROM: Sam Anselm, City Manager  
DATE: April 3, 2015  
RE: Weekly Report

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Good afternoon, everyone. Please continue reading for this week's update.

### Key Meetings

- On Tuesday, City Attorney Edwards and I met with Matt Barnhart with Missouri American Water to discuss some ongoing concerns down at Grand Falls. We are putting together some information and a potential agreement that would govern our relationship with Missouri American to allow the public to continue to access the property and safely enjoy the attraction. I'll keep you posted as the conversation progresses.
- On Wednesday, Director Bolander, Assistant Director Robyn, and I met with representatives from Deloitte in Kansas City to visit a neighborhood revitalization project similar in scope to what has been presented under the banner of our "green neighborhood" project using CDBG-DR funds. The information from that visit will help prepare the PEP for that specific project to be brought to you for reconsideration, but it was impressive to see the amount of private investment that took place as a result of a public project.
- During our trip on Wednesday, we took a break to have a conversation with the 1717 Marketplace developers to discuss the 15<sup>th</sup> Street project and the costs associated with same. We are doing some more homework to see what we can do to work with the developers to ensure the completion of that project. It is still my goal to make sure the project is completed within two years as the agreement stipulated, but if that timeline needs to change for the sake of doing the project the right way, I am prepared to consider recommending an extension. We're still too early in the discussion to determine if that is warranted, however, so I don't mean to scare you.
- Earlier this afternoon I met with Director Tuttle to discuss some revisions to the special event grant guideline and application process for the JCVB board's consideration before the next grant application cycle starts. Generally speaking, over the past year or so the board has tried to assist applications with marketing of their events, and we are trying to incorporate that into the guidelines themselves.

## Miscellaneous

- PW staff is putting together an application for the next round of TIGER funds. We will be requesting assistance with several of the CIST projects that were recently approved by the voters, in order to maximize the dollars used from that revenue stream (if we can use our dollars to match the federal/state portion of the projects, we can stretch those dollars for use on other CIST projects that didn't make the final list). Specifically, we are looking at including the following projects with the application:
  - Connecticut Overpass over I-44
  - Zora Widening
  - 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Widening
  - 20<sup>th</sup> Street Widening
  - 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Railroad Overpass (not a CIST project, but it was requested to be considered on our list for the –DR funding, so we thought we'd put it on the application and see what happens)
- To improve customer service and provide for more security for our employees, we have been making a few changes to policies and procedures here at city hall. City employees will be wearing name badges, and we have instituted a visitor sign-in process to encourage visitors (other than those who need to pay a utility bill or apply for/pick up a building permit) to stop by our front desk before they come into the upper floors of the building for meetings, etc. For security reasons, we will also be encouraging visitors to use our elevators instead of the stairwell to reach the upper floors. Some of these changes may not work, but I've given the green light to staff to try them out. We have already seen a positive change in customer service by utilizing just the name badges, and I am optimistic that additional changes will yield the same results.
- I was informed by the finance department that we will begin water shut offs on April 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> for people who have not paid their sewer bill(s). There are 80 on the list, and our action may stir up some calls, but it is important to note that multiple notices have been sent out and per our ordinance and agreement with the water company, this is our only recourse.
- On Thursday, members of the fire department participated in a mock crash at the high school to show students the dangers of drinking and driving.
- As a result of utilizing the state's \$14 million Rebuild Damaged Infrastructure program, we have been able to complete about \$4 million worth of projects in this year's budget that were intended to come out of the Parks and Stormwater Sales tax. Late last week and earlier this week, we identified two stormwater projects that could be completed using these savings. The first is the detention pond at the Public Safety Training Center to the tune of around \$92,000. The other stormwater related project involves Joe Becker Stadium. Rough estimates for the work that would be done in-house are around \$250,000 or so. On Monday night I would like to receive your blessing to move forward with these projects. Because the dollars are already in this year's budget, there is no need for a formal amendment to add these projects, but I want to bring them to your attention for approval. Because of the deadline surrounding the stadium project, I have asked staff to go ahead and get pricing on the needed materials and other labor required to complete the job before Opening Day. Staff will be prepared to answer any questions you may have.

**In the Pipeline**

- Monday's council meeting is shaping up to be a long one, with several items on the agenda plus a closed session. As usual, I will reach out to you Monday to answer any questions you may have prior to the meeting.
- Also, as a final reminder, earlier this week I had asked for any of your questions about our upcoming economic development update/contract work session with President O'Brian. To date I believe I have heard from one of you, so if you could get me your list of questions by April 6<sup>th</sup>, I can forward them to Rob so he can have some time to do his homework in preparing a response.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these items.

Have a great weekend!