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

Good afternoon, everyone. Let's dive right in...

Key Meetings

- On Monday the mayor and I attended the monthly chamber board meeting. The two of us discussed some of the projects that are ongoing in Joplin, including the stadium renovation, various road projects, etc.
- On Tuesday during our weekly staff meeting, we discussed a new process to develop our five year capital improvement plan. AtCM Kelly and I continue to work on that effort with the goal of bringing you a document that you can review each year before or in conjunction with our budget process.
- Later that afternoon, the mayor, police chief, assistant police chief and I met to discuss the recent events in Baltimore and what the city has done or can do to ensure that events like that don't happen here. You will recall earlier in the year I sent you a summary of the Dept. of Justice report on the Ferguson incident from the perspective of our police department. Again, I want to stress that situations like Ferguson and Baltimore can be prevented if local law enforcement agencies are engaged with the public, and I commend Chief Burns and his staff for their ongoing training and community outreach efforts. While there are always improvements that we can make, our policies, procedures, and a focus on customer service can go a long way towards keeping our community safe for everyone. That continues to be our focus.
- On Wednesday, staff from public works, planning, Deloitte and I met with one of the contractors we hired to assess the condition of the EDR/tornado-damaged area, to discuss the opportunity to have them do the same assessment in the other two "zones". You may recall we hired Anderson, Jacobs, and the Joplin Engineering Team (JET) to assess the infrastructure elements in three separate zones. From a HUD/OIG perspective, it will be good to have an apples-to-apples comparison across all three areas, so we are preparing to have JET do an additional infrastructure assessment in the other two zones based on the same methodology they used in their area. There will be no additional cost for them to do this evaluation, but I have asked our city attorney's office to determine whether we need to bring an amended contract/work authorization to you for approval.
- Later that afternoon, I sat in on a webinar discussing leading local government in the 21st century from a city manager's perspective. It lasted for about an hour, and we discussed changing leadership and management skills needed to address 21st century challenges in terms of communicating with the public, etc. Social media continues to be a hot topic in the field of local government, and it was uplifting to hear that many of their

recommendations are already in place here in Joplin. Our priority-based budgeting process will also help in this endeavor.

- Last night I attended the TIF Commission meeting to present the S. Main Street TIF plan. There was a large audience in attendance, but due to the lack of information needed to determine the “but for” test on the development, the hearing was continued to May 28th. We plan to meet with the developer to address several issues with them prior to the next meeting, but at this point, until we receive the information we need to do our third party analysis, the project is on hold.
- Earlier today I toured the Crosslines facility and Joe Becker Stadium with Director Cotten to get an update on the progress of construction. I cannot speak highly enough of the parks and public works crews working so hard to help Crossland deliver a top-notch stadium and team facilities.
- This afternoon I visited with employees from Innovative Objects to learn more about the company, tour their new facility, and see a demo of an application they’ve developed for Charleston, SC, that they would like us to consider using in Joplin to highlight our various points of interest. The CVB has been looking at something similar to help promote tourism in the city, so we’re evaluating it. IO will be having a grand opening on June 5th at 11 a.m., and I would encourage you to attend.

Miscellaneous

- To provide you with an update on the senior housing/memory care RFP, we are waiting on an appraisal to be returned to us in order to determine the fair market value of the property, as it will determine how CDBG-DR funds will/could be used on the project. While we missed the original deadline to have this out by the end of April, as I’ve stated all along, I want to ensure we are doing this right, not merely for the sake of being quick. As soon as we get the appraisal back we should be able to issue the RFP soon thereafter.
- We have gotten questions about when the trolley will begin service to the new Mercy hospital. After talking with our transit coordinator, the brochures and shelter maps are currently at our printer and we are expecting them back this month. As soon as those are in hand we can begin the service. Doing so before the information is available would cause confusion for existing riders, as the addition of the new hospital adjusts the various drop off/pick up times at all locations along that route.

In the Pipeline

- Over the next two weeks, City Hall will be invaded by some third graders for tours of the building and the museum. Barb H. and Lynn will be coordinating the tours, but this is an annual tradition for us. If you’d like the schedule please let me or Lynn know.
- Next month we will have an intern working in the city manager’s office to help with the pay plan as well as the development of our citizens’ government academy. Through a partnership with Southeast Missouri State and MSSU, Nelson will be working for the city and staying on campus at MSSU. So if you stop by city hall next month and see a new face on the second floor, don’t be afraid.

Have a great weekend, and I’ll see everyone Monday night.