



City Manager's Office  
602 S. Main Street  
Joplin, Missouri 64801  
(417) 624-0820 Ext.205  
(417) 625-4707 (Fax)

TO: City Council  
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager  
DATE: 2/21/2014  
RE: Weekly Report

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Let's jump right in:

### Meetings

- Assistant Director Bolander and I met with staff from Joplin Schools to discuss an early childhood education center to fill a void in providing before- and after-school programming for pre-K children. The school district is identifying potential funding sources, and we have asked Deloitte to do some research on our behalf to determine if other cities have gotten involved in this area before using CDBG funds. More info to follow.
- I attended the quarterly JRPI board meeting on Wednesday; you will recall that the city allocates \$300,000 per year to help fund the initiative. Their latest five-year campaign will be coming to a close this year, and we are ramping up for the next campaign. You may or may not be aware that the group asked Market Street to perform a study of the Joplin area, which is available at [www.joplinregionalstrategy.com](http://www.joplinregionalstrategy.com). Under the "Downloads" section you can find a full copy of the Market Street report, *Joplin Regional Strategy*. The next plan incorporates some of the suggestions made by the Market Street group.
- Also on Wednesday staff as well as Councilman Scearce met with representatives from Wallace-Bajjali to get an update on recent projects as well as discuss some communication issues between the two teams. I remain confident that we can continue to move forward on redevelopment projects as long as we all remain on the same page. Staff is waiting on revised versions of the SDAs for the seniors projects to take them to the JRC for approval before they are brought to you for consideration.
- Related to the quote I shared with you and employees last week, I had a phone conversation with author Ken Miller regarding a number of topics on how to improve our internal processes and the way we do business with the public. It is my intent to slowly roll out several ideas for your consideration/approval, especially as we near the end of the two-year trial period of the pay plan that was implemented in November of 2012. The recent code amendment to allow the attorney's office to issue a conditional letter of

approval for a business to obtain their state liquor license is just one example of how I believe we can do things better as an organization and be more business-friendly. But there are numerous other processes where we can improve, and I've asked staff to evaluate current business practices to improve our delivery of service to the public.

### **Requests**

- Per the mayor's request, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Oscar Arras will make a presentation on behalf of an NLC program that would offer a water and sewer lateral line protection/warranty for residents who may face future issues with their water or sewer lines located on private property. His presentation will last about five minutes, but you'll have an opportunity to ask questions as well.
- As I mentioned during the informal meeting on Tuesday, we are looking at March 17<sup>th</sup> as a tentative date for First Response Fund Chairman Phil Stinnett to make a presentation to you on the allocation of the donations we received post-tornado.

### **Miscellaneous**

- I am happy to report that the position of Chief Building Official has been filled by Bryan Wicklund, who had been serving in an acting capacity since last summer. Bryan has done a fantastic job since he took over, and he will continue to be an asset for the city moving forward.
- In other employee news, as of last Friday we are also back at full staff in the central garage, which now includes a supervisor, three mechanics and an automotive service technician. I will also be working with the fire department to relocate their mechanic over to the PWC as well, so we can consolidate both operations in one facility.
- We received photos of the interior of the new trolley, and the progress for completion remains on schedule for an anticipated delivery at the end of March; photos attached.

If you have any questions about these items, please let me know. Finally, I would like to set aside some time next week to meet with each of you individually to discuss your and my expectations as I continue to fill the role of interim city manager. You have already received a draft copy of the RFQ to select a firm to help fill the position on a permanent basis, but doing so could take months and I would appreciate some time with each of you to develop a solid working relationship.

If you would like to contact me or Vicki to arrange a time, please feel free to do so. Otherwise I will reach out to you next week.

Thanks for your time.



EMERGENCY EXIT

10/02/2014 21:19



10/02/2014 21:19



WATCH YOUR STEP



10/02/2014 21:20