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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager
DATE: 2/27/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Good evening, everyone. You're receiving this a day earlier than normal because on Friday I'll be attending the Chamber board retreat at Downstream Casino. I'm available via text or email if you need to reach me immediately.

I would like to thank those of you who found time this week to drop by for a visit. After consulting with several colleagues around the state, I believe these individual meetings will be beneficial to keep you informed about projects that are still in development, so if you would like to continue these meetings on a regular basis, we can make arrangements to do so. Others have expressed a desire to have me reach out to you only when necessary; I'll honor that request as well.

Meetings

- During our weekly department head staff meeting on Tuesday, I asked Director Allgood to introduce a new **supervisor/manager training program** to the leadership team that he and I have been working on over the past several weeks. Our goal is to send approximately 65 of our supervisors through a two-year training course on a number of topics germane to becoming more effective supervisors/leaders within the city. It's a program that I'm excited about and I believe it will benefit not just our current leaders, but those who want to become future leaders in the organization.
- On Tuesday night we had our first **CIST committee meeting**. Director Heatherly presented the list of projects for consideration by the committee. We project about \$46 million in tax revenues to fund various projects over the next 10 years, and it's important to note that there were well over \$46 million in projects discussed, so the committee will have some tough choices to make. I also wanted to make you aware that the 15th Street viaduct was included in the presentation to the committee. This council has already made its position clear on that project, but PW staff included it because it was a carry-over from the list of 2004-2014 projects that were identified yet not started/completed, and they wanted to present a clear picture to the committee. I don't expect that to be advanced out of the committee stage, but I wanted to be transparent and address it here to ward off

any concerns. We have another meeting scheduled for Tuesday night, and a third meeting (if necessary) on the 11th of March. After that time the committee's spokesman will present their recommendations to you for consideration as we move towards an election to renew the tax.

- On Wednesday, Mayor Colbert-Kean and Councilman Scarce attended a meeting with staff to discuss a **request for UDAG funding from Able Manufacturing**. Assistant City Attorney Edwards was also present and we have asked for some additional information before presenting it to you for consideration. Depending on how quickly representatives from Able Mfg. respond to our request, it's possible the item may come up for discussion on March 10th during our special meeting when we get our Wallace-Bajjali update and consider the Chapter 100 funding request that has been submitted.
- Speaking of, we also received an update on the **Wallace-Bajjali projects**. The site development agreements for the seniors/villas project at 26th and McClelland will be presented to the JRC on March 11th, with the plan to hopefully have them before council for your consideration on the 17th. Legal is currently reviewing what we hope is the final draft of the SDAs. On March 10th, along with this project, Gary Box will also give an update on the other projects that Councilman Scarce emailed you about earlier this week.
- On Thursday I had breakfast with CJ Huff in an effort to get to know each other a little better and see how we can improve the relationship between the city and the school district. We discussed progress on the schools, some of our development projects, and setting up regular meetings between the two of us, Rob O'Brian, and Alan Marble with MSSU. I think it's important to stay connected/current on what's going on with each organization, and I think this could be an effective way of doing so. I also intend to reach out to Dr. Marble next week for a one-on-one meeting if possible. If you have any other suggestions about other community leaders I should meet with, please let me know.
- Staff also met with a HUD representative on Thursday regarding our **progress and plans for the CDBG-DR funding**. She came to Joplin for a tour and conversation. Staff asked me to let you know that the numbers that I gave to you in an earlier email this week regarding the anticipated design work for various infrastructure projects is somewhat fluid. As we continue to ask questions and receive answers from HUD, some design work elements may need to change, and depending on the scope of each infrastructure project we may need to make adjustments. Regardless, we are making progress, so I'm pleased with that.

Requests

- Other than a few "casework" requests involving a few resident concerns, there were no significant requests by members of Council this week.

Miscellaneous

- There has been interest among the farmers' market vendors to move the market from Wednesdays to every Thursday this season. The vendors feel this will be better for their business because we won't be competing with area churches that have Wednesday night programming, or with the market held at Freeman Hospital. Absent any concerns you may have, I think moving the market day is worth a shot if that's what our vendors are wanting to do. **Let me know if you have any concerns with this, otherwise we'll likely have our market every Thursday afternoon.** I have also scheduled a meeting with Trisha Patton with DJA and a few interested volunteers for March 13th to discuss

different locations for the market and their interest in coordinating the market this year. Staff will continue to play a role where necessary, but many of the successful markets that I'm familiar with have volunteers who run and coordinate them.

- **NWS is predicting a fairly significant winter weather event this weekend**, but staff will be prepared to address the road conditions as best we can, and we're in contact with Empire District about potentially significant power outages. The PD will be checking the known homeless camps in the city to ensure our homeless citizens have available shelter.
- We are making progress on filling the **Assistant to the City Manager** position. We had nearly 40 applications, and so far I have identified 17 potential candidates with the requisite background and/or education I am looking for. HR is sending out a questionnaire/written exercise to those 17 candidates with the goal of whittling down the number to six or so to interview.
- We are also preparing for the spring/summer/fall growing season, which means **tall grass and weeds complaints**. In 2013 there were over 2,800 observed tall grass/weeds violations, which resulted in 1,060 requests to mow by city staff. We are looking at ways to improve our processes in the neighborhood improvement division and we'll be pushing out information to the public in news releases and the newsletter on how residents can report these and other code enforcement violations in the future, but I wanted to give you a heads up.

As stated earlier, I'll be at the Chamber retreat tomorrow, so please text/email me if something comes up. Likewise, you have received your packets for Monday's meeting; let me know if you have any questions about any agenda items.

Otherwise, please be careful this weekend, and I'll update you about any significant weather emergencies that occur between now and next week.

See you Monday night.