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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager
DATE: 4/4/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Good afternoon. This week's memo is relatively short but as always, let me know if you have any questions about these or other items.

Meetings

- On Monday Director Heatherly, Director Haase, Assistant Director Lawson and I met with representatives from Burns & McDonnell to discuss their progress on the wastewater rate study. Work continues and I'll update you as we get closer to presenting some options to you.
- Tuesday morning several department heads and I worked alongside the mayor and Councilman Golden with several volunteers on a house sponsored by Rebuild Joplin. I thought it was a great experience for staff to step outside our offices for a few hours and get our hands dirty. I think it helped build some camaraderie and teamwork amongst the staff, which continues to be a focus of mine.
- On Tuesday afternoon Director Tuttle and I took a tour of Route 66 to review some options/ideas for the city to capitalize on our little piece of American history. Director Tuttle has prepared a report that goes into greater detail about some potential ideas that we will share with you at a later date. But there are several worthy projects that we could focus our tourism resources on, and we want to get your input.
- On Wednesday we had our weekly meeting with Wallace-Bajjali staff. So far they're on target with their timeline for the seniors and villas projects. On a related note, we have sent the draft RFQ for a project development manager (PDM) for the library project to our representatives at the EDA. We've asked for their review and comments back to us in two weeks, so soon thereafter we should be able to send that out and start meeting with the library board and the PDM on developing some concepts.
- Yesterday Director Morris, Director Allgood and Assistant Director Schaller and I met to discuss our potential city intranet website that will free up some server space on our network and provide a resource for better communication and information sharing between employees.

- This afternoon Director Haase and I met with representatives from the SWMO Housing Association to talk about the sewer/trash billing issue that was discussed by a citizen during a previous council meeting. The HA represents about 500 rental properties in Joplin, and we are going to work on a form that would allow them as well as other property owners to notify us of which rental properties they own so that both the city and the property owners can meet their objectives.

Miscellaneous

- Numbers:
 - MAPS & Trolley Ridership for March: excluding the defunct FEMA route from 2013, ridership is up 4.4% from March of 2013 compared to 2014.
 - March online utility bill pay numbers: up 21.3% from February
- Hard copies of the employee survey results have been entered; we're formatting the results to give to you next week and I'll likely hand them to you Monday night. We ended with 408 respondents, so we have a good baseline to measure how employees feel about a number of topics.

Have a good weekend, and we'll see you on Monday night.