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TO: City Council  
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager  
DATE: 4/11/2014  
RE: Weekly Report

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### Meetings

This week was relatively light on meetings, but to recap:

- On Tuesday department heads met for our weekly meeting. The **management development training program** kicked off last week and so far it has been well-received, as we are getting some good feedback from employees on the training module. Soon, Finance will start working with departments who had **FEMA reimbursable expenses** to begin completing the paperwork necessary to get reimbursed. As a reminder, we didn't see reimbursement from the 2008 ice storms until 2012, so just because the paperwork will be sent doesn't mean we will see our reimbursements in a timely fashion. Finance will also be working to close out the **cash control policy** project that was started last fall.
- Wednesday was our **weekly meeting with the Wallace-Bajjali team**. Councilman Scearce summarized the highlights of that meeting to you in an earlier email, so there isn't much to add. Things are moving along with the seniors and villas project. EDA has informed us that they should have their review of the library RFQ back to us next week, so we should be able to have that on the street soon.
- Also on Wednesday I met with Trisha Patton to discuss a few DJA projects. Two of which are **banners for Joplin Avenue and bike racks for Main Street**. Staff is reviewing their proposals to determine whether they work within our policy and ADA guidelines, respectively. Barring any issues with either, I see no reason why we can't move forward with adding a few new interesting elements to downtown.
- On Thursday staff met with representatives from Wallace-Bajjali, O'Reilly Development, and Deloitte to dig into the details on the **CDBG requirements for the seniors project**. Everyone is on the same page and appears to be working well together.
- Thursday night I attended a Circles kick-off event. Circles is a national program that has started in Joplin to address poverty issues within our community. For more information, you can visit their website at <http://circlesusa.org>. I attended the meeting as the result of a personal interest that I have in the topic. But I can see where the city could have some benefit in working with members of the initiative as well. I will continue to pursue this on

my personal time, but if it becomes advantageous to bring the council/organization in on the discussion, I'll keep you informed.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The Parks Department is working on a **comprehensive survey to gauge public opinion on the various parks and recreational opportunities** available to citizens in Joplin. It has been quite a few years since the last survey was conducted, and even though we continue to use the 2011 Parks Master List as our guide for projects under the parks & storm water tax, we believe the timing is right to engage the public's opinion on other recreational opportunities. The survey being developed by staff is still in its draft format, but when it's ready to go, I will give you a heads up. We would appreciate your help in promoting the survey to the public and getting as much participation as we can.
- The **farmers market** will start May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 6:30 at Ewert Park and run every Thursday through the summer. We are also looking at expanding the market to Saturday mornings at the same location. From a vendor perspective and at their request, moving it from Wednesday to Thursday should help with increased customers who typically go to church events on Wednesday nights, and it gets them off of a hard, hot blacktop surface during the summer months. I'm optimistic that even if Ewert doesn't become the permanent location for the market, we should see some increased attendance. At its peak we had close to 40 vendors last summer.
- Director Haase has put together the **budget calendar** for my review and comment. The target date to begin is mid-May with departments, but as stated in a previous report, I would like to go through the current budget process for one year before recommending changes for next year or for the next manager's benefit.
- We're also working with our website provider to tweak the **Joplin's Voice** section of our website that would allow more engagement and sharing of ideas between the city and the public.
- In a similar vein, my hope is to soon begin working with the city clerk's office and staff to use our website's **Agenda Creator** module, which would make it much easier to assemble the council meeting agenda packets and share documents with members of council and the public. Potentially, instead of having to turn in your tablets after each meeting, we could upload the council meeting agenda to our website and you could use hyperlinks to access the council bills and supporting documents listed under each agenda item, instead of working with a single, massive PDF document. Stay tuned.

That's about all I have for this week. We're expecting a lot of rain Sunday, but at this point nothing too severe. If that changes, I'll send you a text/email over the weekend.

See you Monday night.