



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: 5/9/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Good afternoon, everyone. Below you will find my weekly update.

Key Meetings

- Last week I attended the annual MCMA conference at the lake. It was the first conference I have been to since I started in Joplin, so it was good to reconnect with colleagues from around the state. I attended sessions on the future of economic development, collective bargaining, how to prevent problems from becoming full-blown legal issues, and crisis communications. It was a very worthwhile conference, and I appreciate your willingness to let me attend.
- On Monday staff and I met with representatives from the school district and Newton County to discuss the upcoming Hope Valley TIF project. We let the school district know that the city wasn't going to entertain the idea of signing an MOU with them on this project. The TIF Commission will continue their hearing and receive public comment at their next meeting on the 15th.
- On Wednesday I met with Director Allgood and AtCM Brian Kelly about moving forward on two projects – an update/rewrite of our personnel manual, and updating our pay plan. I have asked for employees to volunteer to serve on a committee to review and suggest additions/changes/deletions to our employee manual for presentation to the Personnel Board and ultimate recommendation to the Council for approval. I expect this project to take several months, but it will start within the next two weeks.
- Yesterday staff met with representatives from Mercy and Wallace-Bajjali to discuss plans for the former St. John's hospital site at 26th & McClelland. I believe we have a solid plan moving forward that would allow the city to develop a portion of the site as a "placeholder" project until the long-term, permanent development can take place. Staff is working on the plan and funding sources, and I/we will present details as they become available.
- Earlier this morning I met with members of the Design Review Board to go through our design review standards for the Sunshine Lamp District. Some items needed clarification and ultimately will require codification, so when the details are worked out, we will ask

the Historic Preservation Commission to adopt the new guidelines and recommend them to you in an ordinance for approval as well.

Miscellaneous

- As you are probably aware, the Building Board of Appeals met this week and approved the amendment to the Cott/Insight agreement that will allow construction on that project to continue. At their meeting this morning, they also addressed the issue of the Burt property at 20th and Indiana. Essentially, Mr. Burt has two weeks to present plans and show progress on the completion of the exterior of his building or the board will order that the structure be demolished.
- **Please mark your calendars for June 20th**. You may recall earlier this year that at their annual retreat, the chamber board members expressed an interest in getting the boards of the chamber, school district, MSSU and city council together to talk about some long-term plans for our community. That date has been selected, with the location tentatively identified as the R-8 admin building. More details to follow, but again, please mark your calendar. One of the topics at the top of my list is coming up with a good workforce development strategy, but begin thinking about other topics you would like to discuss as well. It will be an important meeting for our community.
- Our finance department will be sending out instructions to departments either this afternoon or Monday to begin the budget process for FY 2014-15. You have already received a copy of the budget calendar for this year, but if you have any questions about the process or need another copy, please let me know.
- It has been nearly six months since the reorganization of the Public Works department. While many elements of the reorganization have gone well, some have not. The plan that I presented to you last fall was believed to be a good one at the time, but logistically, some things have been a challenge and simply haven't worked as we hoped they would. As a result of discussions with staff and with input from the attorney's office, I am working on a plan now that should address many of these challenges, and some actions will require your input and approval before we proceed. Please stay tuned.

That's all I have for now. It has also been three months since I began providing you with this update, so if you have any suggestions about items that I should include with future memos, please let me know. Likewise, if you have any questions about any of these items, you know how to reach me.

Otherwise, please enjoy your weekend, and keep an eye on the skies.