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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager
DATE: 7/3/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Good afternoon, everyone. Before we get started I just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to take some time away from work and spend it with my family in Colorado. It was nice to unplug my phone for a week and enjoy some fresh air and quality time relaxing with the A-Team. It's good to be back, however, and before budget season kicks off next week, here is a recap of this week's events.

Key Meetings

- On Monday and Tuesday staff and I met with the finalists for the project manager on the library project. The top two firms are both well-qualified, and we are moving forward with discussions to bring one of them on board. The review panel unanimously agreed on which firm to move forward with, and we will hopefully be bringing an agreement to you soon.
- On Wednesday staff met with representatives from Wallace-Bajjali; Gary Duncan, representing the JRC, also attended the meeting. Raymond Braswell with WB presented a revised timeline for each project that includes various milestones. They asked us to provide comment back to them before the information is presented to Council and JRC members, and we are in the process of doing so. The next JRC meeting is on Tuesday.
- Thank you to those who attended the ribbon cutting this morning for the new Sunshine Lamp Trolley. As our transit coordinator, Robert Lolley, indicated, this vehicle should serve the needs of our residents quite well in the future; the trolley will be placed into service officially on Monday.
- Thursday afternoon I met with Cookie Estrada regarding their soccer program. Beginning in the fall, our Parks & Recreation Department is going to start offering our own youth soccer program at the athletic complex, so our staff met with theirs to let them know the fields wouldn't be available for use by the YMCA. They have made arrangements with Missouri Southern to offer the Y program out there, but in the event some of the members of the YMCA board contact you, I wanted to give you a heads up. As you can tell by their efforts, we have an excellent programming staff in the Parks & Recreation Department, and our rec programs have seen solid growth over the past couple of years.

Now that the parks have been repaired from the tornado, I expect our rec programs to begin growing at a much faster pace than they already are.

Miscellaneous

- During the week of July 21st, HUD reps will be in town reviewing our CDBG-DR programs. They're bringing a contingent of 7-8 people which is more than we've seen in other reviews, but I do not anticipate any issues at this point.
- Next week Joplin Schools plans to begin moving some furniture into portions of the new high school, but to keep you in the loop, as of yesterday there were still some concerns about the safety of the building from an occupancy standpoint. Our public works and fire staff are working closely with theirs to make sure our safety concerns are met before we allow people into an active construction zone, even if it's just to relocate furniture. We have been meeting with them for several weeks and will continue to work with them as much as we can, but if the building isn't ready for a temporary certificate of occupancy when the school district is ready to move furniture in, we may be heading towards a potential stand-still.
- PW updates – 9th and St. Louis was re-opened to traffic yesterday, but while we were replacing the deteriorated stormwater box under St. Louis, the railroad crossing was also improved. We need to do some street surface improvements to smooth the transition over the tracks, but the street is re-opened. In other news, staff has reviewed the RFQs for the engineering services for the CDBG-DR II partial action plan, which consists of design work on sidewalks, curb & gutter, and stormwater. Contract negotiations will begin next week. Finally, construction work began on the detention project at 15th and Murphy using the state's DED money. We are working with Senator Richard's office on firming up a date and time to do a ribbon cutting on that project; we will keep you informed of that as well as we work out the details.
- Finally, AtCM Brian Kelly has completed a draft survey to get the public's reaction/input to the joint planning meeting we had on June 20th. Early next week I'll give it a final once-over before we send it to the four entities for input before making it available to the public.

I will be in budget meetings with departments for a majority of the time next week, so I suspect my update will be shorter than usual, as there are only so many creative ways to say, "I met with finance and the _____ department to go over their proposed budget for FY 2014-15."

Enjoy your holiday weekend, be safe, and I look forward to seeing everyone Monday night. As a reminder, dinner will be served at 5:15. See you then.