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TO: City Council

FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager

DATE: 9/12/2014

RE: Weekly Report

Good afternoon, members of Council. Below is a summary of this week's activities and information I'd like to share with you.

Key Meetings

- On Tuesday I met with staff to discuss the preliminary findings of the wastewater rate study, of which Burns & McDonnell was hired to help with. Over the past five years we have increased the wastewater rates 5% each year, but that same approach likely won't be enough to sustain future capital and operational needs into the future. Staff is working on a presentation to give to you on the second week of October, after the Wallace-Bajjali update. We will have our recommendation prepared for you at that time, and possibly present the rate tables formally to you during our second regular council meeting in October, for the rates to take effect in January.
- Also on Tuesday, we met with representatives from Mercy to discuss the project on the former hospital site. On Monday you will be presented with two Council bills, one that deals with returning the property from the JRC to Mercy, and another that approves the donation of the property from Mercy to the city. Mr. Danny Thomas will be in attendance to discuss their plans for the site and provide a timetable on when they expect to get started.
- On Wednesday we met with representatives from Deloitte and Wallace-Bajjali to get an update on their projects, specifically at 20th & Connecticut, and we also discussed the seniors project at 26th and McClelland. We are still waiting for information back from officials with HUD regarding the possible availability of CDBG funds for that project, but until we get a definitive answer, CDBG-DR funds are not available at this time to assist with the project. Getting back to the theater project at 20th and Connecticut, there was a meeting with the neighborhood on Wednesday evening that by staff accounts went well. Preliminary concepts were presented to the neighbors and additional feedback was given. WB staff anticipates one more neighborhood meeting before they take plans to the planning and zoning commission. We will keep you posted as those developments take place.

- On Wednesday afternoon the mayor, staff, and I met with Corner Greer Architects and Crossland Construction to review the latest budget and seating schematics for Joe Becker Stadium. As you are aware by now, we were not able to keep the project under \$4 million and still meet minimum league requirements for the facility. As a result of that meeting, we were able to trim a few more items from the budget, and we also identified additional funding sources that we can use to offset the increased cost. With this information, and with your approval on Monday night, I feel confident that we can officially break ground on the project soon and still make Opening Day, 2015. I would like to commend staff, particularly our public works, planning, parks and finance directors, for their efforts on this project. City Attorney Edwards has also worked hard to bring this information to you on Monday, and I would like to thank him as well. This result demonstrates the good things that can happen when staff is presented with a challenge, and by working together I'm proud of the work they have been able to accomplish in such a short time.
- On Thursday staff and I met with our Congressional reps to answer some of their questions about the challenges surrounding the use of CDBG-DR funds. Staff has asked Deloitte to review the entire list of –DR projects to identify potential concerns or challenges with using disaster funds to complete them. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, I would like to present you with their findings and identify other projects that we may possibly use those funds for that can have a long-lasting impact on our community.
- Finally, earlier this morning Director Haase and I met with the finance committee to answer questions regarding their charge to review the proposed FY2014-15 budget. The committee's plan is to have a report/memo available to you prior to the budget work sessions starting on September 22nd. After the meeting took place, I had an interesting conversation with Dr. Groesbeck about some potential internship/project opportunities with MSSU that may be of benefit to the city.

Miscellaneous

- I understand that several members of council were contacted earlier this week about an issue a resident is having with a utility easement, and hoping to get help from members of council to vacate the utility easement along his property. After meeting with staff this morning, the process, while it can be lengthy, is governed by both state statute and local ordinances. Under state law, interpretation of our zoning code falls under the authority of the city planner, the board of adjustment, and ultimately the circuit court (in that order). Council's role in this process is legislative – you would have the authority to change or shorten the process (as long as the changes don't violate any portion of the state statutes), but otherwise your role is somewhat limited when it comes to this resident's concern.

For the benefit of our newest council members, and as a refresher to others, we are going to try to set a time when we can have a training session of sorts to help you navigate your way through issues like this. I have a few ideas on how to accomplish this, so let me work with staff and area organizations to put something together. Until then, staff is available to help you with questions or concerns like this that residents bring to you, so please refer them to me so we can try to help.

- At another council members' request, I asked our health department earlier this week for an update on any reported enterovirus cases in our area. In short, enterovirus is a non-reportable condition, so doctors and hospitals aren't required to report cases to the local

health departments. There are an estimated 10-15 million enterovirus cases per year in the United States, and as of 9/10, the CDC has only reported 84 cases of EV-D68, the strain that has been in the news lately. Testing can be done for specific strains, but ultimately doctors don't recommend it, as the treatment for those cases is similar regardless of the strain. Our staff does try to pay attention to trends in the cases that are being reported, however, and we have seen an increase in basic respiratory illness over the past week. But with kids heading back to school and allergies picking up, this is not unusual for this time of the year. If any specific cases are reported or staff grows concerned, we will let you know.

- As you may have seen or heard, the airport board is having an open house to discuss the Airport Master Plan on September 17th. The airport board has been working on a presentation that they would like to make available to you, and our consultant is working on putting the presentation into electronic format that we can share with you via an internet link (the file size is quite large and includes audio). When that presentation is ready I will forward you the link.

That's all I have for now; as a reminder, I will be out of the office this Sunday through Wednesday, returning from the ICMA conference on Thursday. But I will be available by phone or email if anything comes up, so please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Thank you for your time, and have a great weekend!