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TO: City Council  
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager  
DATE: 9/26/2014  
RE: Weekly Report

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Good morning, everyone. Please see below for this week's happenings.

### Key Meetings

- On Monday afternoon I attended the Personnel Board meeting to present the council bill that would create a new planning department separate from public works. The board voted to recommend approval, so you will see that item on your agenda October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Of course, Monday night and Tuesday were spent in work sessions to discuss the FY2014-15 budget. I want to thank you for your time and questions this year, and for the flexibility in moving Monday's meeting to Memorial Hall. I thought the discussions went well, but I look forward to improving the process for next year.
- On Tuesday afternoon, Director Haase and I met with representatives from Mercy to discuss the city's health insurance bid process, which we will start next year. In addition to health insurance, we will also be bidding out worker's comp, property & liability insurance, residential trash service, etc., all of which will expire in 2015 or 2016.
- On Wednesday we had our weekly Wallace-Bajjali meeting. Regarding the seniors project at 26<sup>th</sup> and McClelland, we are still waiting for answers from HUD regarding a few hurdles we have run into regarding WB's procurement of their partner for the project. Assistant Director Bolander attended a meeting with HUD reps in KC yesterday and came back with some potentially positive news, but the regional HUD office wants to check with their DC reps before we get any clear direction moving forward.
- Also on Wednesday, we had the ground breaking for the renovation of Joe Becker Stadium. There was a fairly large crowd in attendance, and there was definitely excitement in the air for the Blasters and the stadium. As the mayor commented, our parks and public works staff have done a tremendous job with the demolition, which saves us a substantial amount of time and money on the project, and they deserve recognition for their efforts.
- On Wednesday afternoon I attended the latest Connect2Culture board meeting. The main topic of discussion was the possible use of Memorial Hall to house various cultural activities and offices. Chad Greer, with CGA, developed a possible rendering of the exterior of the Hall, and they plan to tour the building again on Monday with a team of engineers to inspect the structural integrity of the building. Based on that information, the C2C board may be interested in presenting a plan to the city council for the use of Memorial Hall in this capacity.

- Yesterday, members of staff and I had a conference call with attorneys from Williams & Campo to discuss the disaster TIF Redevelopment Agreement. The school district has approached us about the availability of the \$13 million that was dedicated to them when the RA was approved. At this point, the TIF is not performing well enough to generate proceeds above and beyond what is necessary to pay back the debt service, and per the MOU signed between the school and Wallace-Bajjali, which mirrors the RA, we cannot pay the school district until the projects proposed by the master developer, or other developments, begin to materialize and generate the requisite surplus. We are scheduling a meeting with the school district to discuss this further; I will keep you posted.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Regarding the Joe Becker project, Crossland Construction needs to mobilize quickly in order to fit the timeline for construction prior to opening day on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The process to vacate 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is underway, but will not be completed prior to Crossland needing to tear out the curb and the northern half of the street. I have authorized them to begin work, as all utilities have signed off, and because we own the street, it's within our power to close it. But because we have already published notice of the vacation at the next P&Z meeting, it has been recommended that we continue with that process. You can expect the vacation request at a future meeting, but I didn't want you to be surprised that the work has already begun.
- After Monday night's work session, I received a request from Councilman Scarce to review the list of positions that were approved in FY2013-14 and after the reorganization of the public works department, to rank them in order of importance and determine whether or not we could do without those positions. I have not fulfilled that request yet, primarily because as I work with staff on the pay plan, I think there is an opportunity to restructure/reclassify some positions that will help with the long term stability of our personnel costs. Truthfully, all of the positions that were approved are important, and all but one of those positions has a person in that role. At this point, I don't see the wisdom in or the need to begin thinking about this until we have a discussion about the priority of services to our residents.
- Regarding the suspicious package situation that developed and ultimately resolved itself yesterday, while I am certainly grateful that it turned out to be a false alarm, it did bring up an important aspect of working in city government that we all need to be mindful of. I would like to acknowledge the professionalism displayed by both the parks and police departments in handling that situation. Our HR department has been working with staff in various buildings over the last several months to develop their emergency response plans, and while we can chalk this experience up to a good training exercise, I'm more confident than ever in our staff's dedication and commitment to our coworkers and to the community.
- Finally, I would like to recognize the appointment of Char Webb, one of our neighborhood improvement officers, to the Missouri Association of Code Enforcement as a director-at-large, representing SW Missouri. Last week, she and two other members of our code enforcement staff attended the annual MACE conference at the Lake of the Ozarks, which provided them with the opportunity to attend some training sessions within their field for the first time in at least the past four years.

Thank you for your time, and please enjoy your weekend.