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TO: City Council
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager
DATE: 10/10/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Good afternoon, everyone. I apologize for the delay in getting this week's report to you, but it's been a busy Friday.

Key Meetings

- On Monday I met with Director Heatherly to discuss a recent request made by Joplin Schools to install crosswalks at two locations at/near the high school. We have some concerns about the locations they proposed (one of which crosses 20th Street), but PW will be investigating the matter further to see what we can do to accommodate their request and still stay within traffic guidelines and regulations.
- Also on Monday, staff and I had a meeting with representatives from Wallace-Bajjali to discuss a number of issues surrounding the status of their projects. We still haven't made any headway with officials from HUD to get clarification on concerns with the Seniors project, but we are definitely trying.
- On Tuesday staff met to discuss any Ebola virus concerns for employees or the public. At this point, based on the information and facts, we believe there is very little risk for our employees or the public. Discussions are taking place with our staff about proper PPE (personal protective equipment) and measures to take in the event a local case is reported.
- On Wednesday, Assistant Director Bolander and I met with a reporter from the Business Journal to discuss the creation of the planning department and the cooperation with the chamber on our various economic development efforts. We have received some positive feedback from the business community. On a related note, I will be working with Troy over the next several weeks to develop a set of focus group meetings with area businesses to get their perspective on how we can improve our processes. We've already heard from one local developer about a concern regarding the need to produce a set of plans before developers meet with the P&Z Commission, and the associated cost of doing so before they know for sure if their request would be approved. In some instances, the costs can range from \$8,000-\$10,000 per set of plans, and I'm concerned that the upfront costs may be preventing some (re)development in some areas of the city. We will explore this topic during our meetings to see if others feel the same way, and to gauge how widespread the impact may be on our redevelopment efforts.
- On Thursday I met with the commander of the USS Missouri, his wife and crew members to tour the city so they could see the progress we've made since their crew came down in 2011. The last member who participated in the relief efforts recently transferred from the

Missouri, so the commander thought it was important to come back down so the legacy of the USS Missouri/Joplin could continue. He presented the city with a plaque that will be mounted in City Hall, and in return we are mailing some items to Captain Lockett and his crew thanking them for their visit.

- This morning I attended a meeting with Councilmember Shaw and community representatives who serve on the committee to plan the events commemorating the five-year anniversary of the tornado.

Miscellaneous

- You should have received the information via email for Monday night's work session to discuss our waste water rates for 2015-2019. The recommended increases are higher than anyone on staff would like to see, but I asked our public works and finance departments to present the information to you based on the reality of the situation we're facing when it comes to anticipated operation, maintenance and capital costs over the next five years. I look forward to the discussion on Monday night.
- I have asked staff to gather information on the golf course in response to Monday's vote to ask the finance committee to look into the operations of the golf course. As soon as we can put the basic information together, we will schedule the meeting. Specifically, I would like them to look into the leased equipment option presented by Assistant Director Garrie, the rates for the golf course, and the possibility of adding a golf pro position. Unless you have any objections or other requests, I will move forward with that plan.
- Staff will be bringing the next CDBG-DR II partial action plan on October 20th for your consideration. In addition to additional infrastructure money, we will be asking for funds to help with the renovation of Crosslines, and to help with the construction of an early childhood center via the request made from Joplin Schools. Both groups have been working closely with our staff and representatives from Deloitte to make sure everything is in order, but these are two projects that I believe will help address key needs within our community.
- The Zora widening project had been placed on hold while we worked with Empire District to negotiate the cost of relocating the transmission line along Zora, from Range Line to Main Street. The early estimate for the cost to relocate the line had been placed at \$400,000, but through the efforts of staff, we've reduced the city's share of the cost to about \$230,000.
- To follow up on a matter I brought to your attention a couple of weeks ago, we are scheduling the carpet/tile replacement at the courts offices for the week of December 8-12. The total bill for the asbestos abatement is \$9,880, which while unforeseen, is necessary to complete the project.
- As you may have seen, the Exchange Club earlier this week recognized Captain Joe Huddleston from the Joplin Fire Department as fire fighter of the year.
- And finally, the city collected \$69,638 as a result of last weekend's auction. Of that amount, over \$43,000 was from vehicle sales. I would like to commend the entire staff for getting ready for and executing a successful event.

IF you have any question about these items, please me know. Otherwise, thank you for your time and enjoy your weekend.