



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: 10/17/2014
RE: Weekly Report

Good afternoon, everyone. Let's jump right in...

Key Meetings

- On Monday staff and I met to discuss the projects included thus far in the second round of CDBG-DR funding. The consultants we've hired to survey the recovery areas will be presenting their assessment of the condition of our infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, storm/sanitary sewer, etc.) sometime in November. At that point, staff will review the results and come to you with a recommendation to (most likely) reallocate our funds in such a way to focus on three areas – infrastructure, economic development, and housing. You will recall that the initial proposal included \$40 million for an indoor recreation center; we have had several conversations with HUD about that specific project and as I stated back in February/March, that project as originally presented would not be an eligible use of HUD funds. So there will be an opportunity to use some or all of that money to allocate towards other projects.
- On Tuesday, we met with representatives from Joplin Schools to answer questions about the disaster TIF and the \$13 million that was originally identified for use by the schools if the redevelopment was generating enough revenues to cover debt service. We issued \$18 million in bonds, which netted \$13.5 million. That was allocated towards land purchase, the city's match for the EDA grant towards the library, and to cover issuance costs and principal and interest payments on the bonds if the TIF wasn't producing as expected. So far, the TIF is covering the debt service, but the city is redirecting some \$684,000 per year in sales tax revenues, and the school district is losing approximately \$614,000 annually for development that would have likely happened anyway. Our current projections indicate that we could pay off the TIF bonds in 2027. But until new development occurs, we cannot issue more bonds or provide funding to the school district as was outlined in the original Redevelopment Agreement. It's a complicated issue, but if you have any questions, please let me know.
- On Wednesday we met with representatives from Wallace Bajjali for our regular update. It was a productive meeting and we will have some news to report to you and to the JRC at their next meeting in November.
- Yesterday Assistant to the City Manager Brian Kelly and I attended an event at Ozark Christian College to hear Ismael Hernandez, founder of the Freedom & Virtue Institute, discuss an alternative way to help those in poverty. James Whitford, with Watered Gardens, invited me to attend to discuss an idea he is working on to address the issue on a local level.

- Earlier today I attended the quarterly President's Luncheon with Rob O'Brian at the JACC. Representatives from several local businesses, including Heartland and General Mills, were in attendance to discuss various issues. Interestingly, I learned that our local General Mills plant uses approximately 1 million pounds of flour every day, and our plant produces nearly 80% of the bread that is sold in our local Walmart stores. So if you buy your bread at Walmart, next time you bite into a sandwich or a piece of toast, know that you're supporting local jobs.

Miscellaneous

- You may have seen or heard that the DOT has put out a bid for essential air service at the Joplin airport. AA currently holds the two-year contract, but this proposal will allow other carriers to submit a bid to the DOT for services. Proposals will be due on November 12th; once the DOT receives the proposals, we will have an opportunity to review and provide comment/recommendation.
- Monday's agenda contains several items, notable among them the Partial Action Plan amendment asking for funds for the early childhood center to be run by Joplin Schools, and money to help renovate the Crosslines facility. We've included additional funding for infrastructure as well. Other notable items include budget bills, plans for Joe Becker, etc. It should be a busy night.
- One item not on your agenda is the pay plan. Assistant Kelly continues to work on reviewing job descriptions, etc. to ensure they match our positions. However, effective November 1st we are beginning a new annual evaluation system for employees, and we are working on several job descriptions pertaining to the planning department, finance, and public works that need to be revised and included in a temporary pay plan that will require your approval. I intend to bring this to you for consideration during one of our meetings in November. Because the proposed budget for next fiscal year does not include any raises, there isn't necessarily a deadline associated with this plan, but it will be beneficial to submit a transitional plan until such time that the new plan can be presented and discussed.
- Finally, as a Cardinals fan this somewhat pains me to pass along, but the mayor has invited everyone to wear blue on Monday night to celebrate and support the Royals' appearance in the World Series, which starts next Tuesday, I think (again, I stopped paying a great deal of attention after last night's loss to the Giants). But having spent most of my life in Missouri, I suppose it's okay to share the baseball love with the fans on the west side of the state, especially if it only happens once every 30 years or so.

If you have any question about these items, please me know. Otherwise, thank you for your time and enjoy your weekend. Go ~~Cards~~ Royals!

