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TO: City Council  
FROM: Sam Anselm, Interim City Manager  
DATE: 10/23/2014  
RE: Weekly Report

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Good evening, everyone. I apologize for getting this out late, but with the busy schedule for tomorrow and Saturday, I wanted to get something to you early. As an FYI, I will be leaving for St. Louis after my interview on Saturday, and will be back in the office on Tuesday.

#### **Key Meetings**

- On Monday the mayor, staff and I participated in a conference call with representatives from HUD and the Rockefeller Foundation to discuss the National Disaster Resiliency competition, which would award \$1 billion dollars remaining in the CDBG-DR program, to be allocated among up to 67 state, county or local governments that were impacted by natural disasters from 2011-2013. As a result of that conversation, I am setting up another conference call next week with representatives from Moore, OK, and Tuscaloosa, AL, to discuss the competition and how tornado-affected communities could make application for the funds. As per any HUD program, there will be several strings attached to any funding we might receive, but we will have to make application for the funds before they can be awarded. Research continues, and I will provide you with an update as information becomes available.
- On Tuesday Director Haase, City Attorney Edwards and I had a conference call with our bond counsel to discuss the disaster TIF, and whether additional bonds could be issued to support the development at 20<sup>th</sup> & Connecticut, or any other potential project for that matter. But similar to my update from last week, the answer is still the same – until the TIF is generating a surplus, no additional bonds can be used to pay the school district or to support another project, and any developer hoping to use TIF funds would have to “get in line” behind the school district, per the terms outlined in the Redevelopment Agreement. As a result of that meeting, I contacted David Wallace and Raymond Braswell to ask for additional information about their development to see if additional funding options could be explored to close a funding gap they’ve identified in their project. To date I have not heard back from either one of them.
- This morning I met with staff in the building division to discuss the status of our rebuild effort and a better way to present our progress to the public. We’ve established a plan to utilize our GIS system to perform better analyses of the data kept by our building division, but of the thousands of permits that have been issued since the tornado, there is a lot of data that needs to be cleaned up before it can be uploaded into the GIS system. I will be redirecting the duties of other staff to help in this effort until the data is cleaned up, but I expect it to take at least another month.

## Miscellaneous

- Following up on Monday's council meeting, I want to apologize to you for the way in which the school district's request for CDBG-DR funding was presented to you. In particular, Councilman Scarce's comments about not having adequate time to review the information was of concern. Staff is collecting additional information from the school district/Deloitte to present to you at a future work session, with a date to be determined. Regardless, I should have done a better job explaining how the process would play out to you as we roll out CDBG-DR projects, but to prevent this miscommunication from happening again, I plan to set aside some time at your convenience on the Friday before or the day of each council meeting to call you and discuss the agenda and/or answer any questions you may have. If there is a particular day or time that you prefer to be contacted, please let me know.
- Last week Councilman Glaze received a request from post office asking what we plan to do with the mail boxes that used to be at the former temporary housing site at the airport. Currently they are sitting in storage and FEMA has confirmed that they are ours to do with as we please, so I have asked the city attorney's office to research our charter and state statutes to see if we can simply give the boxes to the post office, since we neither paid for them nor have any plans to use them. This research will also benefit us as we try to address the vacant lots around town that the city owns and maintains as a result of the county's donation of these parcels to us. Past attempts to sell these lots have proven difficult, but if it's possible to deed these properties to adjacent owners to either maintain or redevelop, I believe it would be our advantage to do so, as we could put these properties back on our tax rolls and free up staff resources and expense related to maintaining them.
- Lastly, earlier this week Director Cotten asked if he could make a presentation to you at the next council meeting to discuss possible locations for the skate park that is part of the 2014-15 budget. He has identified three sites that could be considered for your approval, and we would like your direction on which site to proceed with so we can begin the bid process. He has identified the tennis courts at Landreth, Ewert and Schifferdecker as possible locations. If you have other suggestions, we will be happy to discuss them that evening.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these items, and as requested above, which day/time you would prefer to discuss any items on future council agendas.