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TO: City Council  
FROM: Sam Anselm, City Manager  
DATE: May 15, 2015  
RE: Weekly Report

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Happy Friday, everyone. Please continue reading for this week's update.

### Key Meetings

- On Tuesday I met with staff and Chuck Banks from Deloitte to get an update on the capital planning process. Things are shaping up for our work session with Council on June 11<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the projects, and if you feel prepared to give us informal approval on them that night, we can bring amended action plans to you as we work out the next steps. But we may also need to consider having a special meeting later next month if you feel you need more time to evaluate the projects.
- On Wednesday several staff members involved in the CDBG-DR process and I attended ethics, conflict of interest, and an introduction to procurement training conducted by members of the Deloitte team as we get closer to green lighting the CDBG-DR projects. There are several takeaways from the session that are applicable to our organization as a whole, so I will be working with our HR department to offer similar training to staff in the future.
- Later that afternoon I had a webinar with a company called Goodsnitch that offers a free app to governmental entities which would allow our residents to provide feedback on experiences they have with our organization. An article appeared in Governing Magazine covering the company and the service they offer, and in response to that article I reached out and asked for a demonstration. Discussion continues, and I will keep you posted if it's something we plan to move forward with.
- Earlier this morning Director Bolander and I met with representatives from HUD who are in town yesterday and today to get an update on our progress of spending the –DR dollars. Our new disaster representative from HUD wanted to see first-hand the progress we have made. They did express to us that officials in D.C. are worried we aren't spending the money as quickly as some other communities that received –DR funding, but after reviewing the capital planning process we have in place, the local representatives are comfortable that we're progressing in the right way, albeit a bit slowly. Once staff gets the green light from you about which projects to move forward with, I feel confident that we'll be able to hit our marks and key deadlines tied to the funds.

## Miscellaneous

- The JCVB 2016 grant application season has begun, and this year they've opened the grant program to local attractions/organizations to promote/market their activities in markets beyond 70 miles from Joplin for the purpose of attracting visitors from outside of the Joplin area and/or retain a visitor for greater than three hours. Another change to the grant process is the amount any single applicant can receive has been reduced from \$20,000 down to \$15,000. This change could result in more requests being funded than in previous years. The CVB board will follow the same approval process as in the past.
- On the public works side, we will be reaching out to the neighbors of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street CIST project next week to listen to the property owners and get them engaged in the project. In the event you get a call from one of them, I just wanted to give you a heads up. This isn't a formal public meeting, per se, so you do not need to attend; we just want to listen to any concerns and comments at this point as we move forward.
- Four of the DED projects are in the substantial completion stage with a lot of work going on in neighborhoods south and east of the recovery area. And as we move forward with the –DR projects, things will only get busier, but we will do everything we can to keep residents and the public informed about upcoming work in their area from here on out.
- Work continues at Joe Becker – asphalt has been laid, sidewalks poured, and the south lot has been striped. Grass is growing, the suites have windows and the inspection process has been smooth according to our building official. Staff received a certificate of substantial completion earlier today from Crossland, so we will be going over the punch list items early next week.
- The last minute push to finish things up at the stadium and work to renovate the Crosslines building have resulted in less time for both parks and public works staff to keep up with the mowing of our right-of-ways and parks, but we're doing our best to keep up with those efforts; obviously there's a hard deadline with the stadium completion, so I feel our efforts are appropriately focused there for now.
- Speaking of baseball, the Blasters officially kicked off the season in Kansas City last night; they lost an exhibition game 5-4 on a walk-off hit by the T-Bones in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup>. But they're back in town tonight for their second exhibition game to be held at MSSU.
- Finally, I wanted to note a few staffing changes in the planning department. Johan Bullington will start on Monday as our CDBG Project Manager to help oversee the monitoring and reporting on our –DR grant activities; she is an in-house promotion coming from the finance department, so she will be a great addition to the team where her existing experience with our systems will be beneficial. Patty Heigel has accepted the position of CDBG Project Coordinator. As we bring on more –DR projects, we needed someone with the experience and knowledge of all of our activities to help coordinate them and ensure our program remains on schedule and adheres to federal guidelines, and her experience over the past 18 months as our CDBG project manager will fill that need. Finally, Stephen Grindle has started as our neighborhood services supervisor. Stephen comes to us from sunny California, where he worked to develop and implement a variety of community neighborhood improvement programs and projects with local partners and faith-based organizations. Stephen and his wife Rachel moved to Joplin last month after she accepted a position with an organization in Joplin. I am excited about Stephen's

background and enthusiasm as he works with our neighborhood improvement team to develop a more comprehensive approach to neighborhood efforts. Please join me in welcoming these new team members.

**In the Pipeline**

- The agenda for Monday night's meeting is available online and there are several items on the agenda. I will call you on Monday to see if you have any questions about the meeting.
- Next week I will be meeting with staff and two members of the solid waste commission to review our RFP for solid waste services; at this point I envision asking respondents to provide pricing on three options – one to provide service as residents receive it today, and two additional options that would address our recycling and yard waste programs.

Have a great weekend.