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**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Sam Anselm, City Manager  
**DATE:** April 15, 2016  
**RE:** Weekly Update

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Good afternoon, everyone. Please see below for this week's update.

### **Key Meetings**

- On Monday, staff and I met with Councilwoman Colbert-Kean to give an update on the status of the projects in East Town through our Neighborhood Improvement District IV. We also talked about the amenities at Ewert Park, the Carver Nursery building, and other ideas to improve East Town.
- On Tuesday, I met with Director Heatherly and Assistant Director Salisbury to get an update on the status of the new street maintenance program, and our plans to address various rideability issues around town, including improving railroad crossings, raising manholes along key corridors, etc. The public works department is laying out a 30-year street maintenance program which focuses our efforts on the busiest streets that carry the most vehicles.
- Later that afternoon, I attended the JRC meeting to hear staff give an update on potential use of remaining library funds to support infrastructure/investment in the Wildwood Ranch area and Crossroads, as I discussed in my last update. As discussions continue with the EDA we will keep you posted.
- On Wednesday I attended a roundtable meeting to introduce MoDOT's new director, Patrick McKenna, to Joplin. Mr. McKenna talked about several initiatives MoDOT has going on, in addition to answering questions from those in attendance.
- On Thursday, I attended the monthly One Joplin meeting to hear an update on the health, human services, and poverty teams and their efforts.
- Following that meeting, we had our second Sales/Use Tax Task Force meeting. After answering questions from the committee, they voted to recommend to council that we place the "continuation of the sales tax on titled equipment" item on the August ballot. Director Haase will prepare a summary memo for you next week, and we will work with the legal department to prepare the ordinance/ballot language for your consideration at either the first or second meeting in May.
- On Friday, we held our new council member orientation at City Hall. Councilmen Brown, McCreary and Stinnett were in attendance as department heads introduced themselves, talked about the work and challenges going on in their departments, etc. Councilman West was unable to attend, but he and I will sit down next week to go over the information. I think it went very well, and we will continue to offer this in the future.

## **Miscellaneous**

- We have received nearly 400 survey responses from residents asking them to vote on the priorities we have identified through Priority-Based Budgeting.
- The fire department has an opportunity to participate in a 100% funded grant for equipment and training to add water rescue services to our special operations team, in conjunction with the Redings Mill Fire Department. Redings Mill will act as the grantee, with an MOU being prepared between JFD and RMFD to allow for joint use of the equipment.
- As of this past Monday, we have had 176 households sign up for the voluntary curbside recycling program in the first week since the sign-up period was opened. Residents are now eligible to sign up for the service online at this website: [www.republicservices.com/joplin](http://www.republicservices.com/joplin).
- Our finance department has begun receiving emails from SEMA in response to the tornado reimbursements that we submitted. The work is far from over, but it is a good sign that the review has begun. We will keep you posted about the progress of the review.
- In other FEMA disaster news, staff met with FEMA reps on Thursday to begin the review of the December flood event and the damage caused to public facilities as a result of the heavy rains.
- The follow-up review of the municipal court audit will begin sometime in May, and you should have received a test email this week about the release of the follow-up report on the state audit of the city. As soon as we receive that follow up report we will put a link to it on our website for residents to read.
- According to our parks director, barring any other unforeseen issues or weather delays, we are looking at mid-June for the completion of Mercy Park.

## **In the Pipeline**

- Just a reminder that we are scheduled to hear from Tom Durkin from the Missouri Attorney General's office on April 21<sup>st</sup> for a seminar on the Sunshine Law. It will be held in the council chambers beginning at 3:30 p.m., and you are invited to attend.
- Staff is also working on an ordinance updating the rental rates for Memorial Hall; you can expect to consider that ordinance during one of our regular meetings in May.

If you have any questions about any of these items, please let me know. Otherwise, I hope you have a great weekend.