

A few members of the board from the baseball association came to the last Park Board meeting to express concern about the potential changes to field reservations. The main concern was how they were going to come up with extra money to pay for the potential changes. Director Ryan Howell reassured the baseball association that there are no changes in stone, and when he brought the idea of a potential change to each to the organizations using the city of Troy facilities, it was about change in format. The goal of the Park Board and the Director is to get away from the \$5.00 per child format we currently follow and get to a "pay for play" kind of system. Moving to this kind of format means you only pay for what you use. Currently baseball/softball, soccer, football and church league adult softball pay \$5.00 per participant for unlimited private use of public facilities. The association board members also had scheduling concerns, if the change takes additional rentals from teams operating outside their league, or have tournaments on weekends, scheduling rainouts could become more difficult. The Park Board agreed that this may become more difficult but not impossible if they have to share facilities with additional users.

The Board of Alderman authorized the mayor to sign the 2016 contract with Midwest Pool Management for the management fee of \$26,400.00 and the maximum base salary of \$90,546.00. Director Howell has begun the process of hiring the seasonal maintenance and aquatic center attendants.

Director Howell informed the Board that our 2015 disc golf grant application was denied. The PDGA encouraged us to apply again for both grant cycles in 2016. The grant would help fund the purchase of disc golf baskets.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the site plan for the new Bank of Old Monroe, which will be located at 100 Market Place Drive, across the street from the O'Reilly Auto Parts store. At the next P & Z meeting we are hoping to have the site plan for the new Arby's Restaurant available for review.

In the Police Department, we were able to obtain four new doors for one of the Hummers from the U. S. Army post in Jefferson City, MO. Our old doors had windows that did not work and the glass in the windows was all fogged up to where you could not see out.

Detectives Lt. James Patton, Det. Roger Taylor, Det. James Stewart and Det. Roger Mauzy will be attending the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis training on March 24, 2016 in Fairview Heights, IL.

In the Public works department, 12 tons of asphalt was used to repair pot holes and full depth repairs. The snow event had the guys out plowing streets and they used forty tons of salt on the streets. We now have all but four of our trucks fitted with regulators that control the amount of salt that is dropped, and when the truck is going backwards it stops dropping salt all together. This conserves salt and minimizes the damage done to the surface of the street because it doesn't leave a pile of salt in one place.

Two dogs were picked up running at large. One was returned to the owner and the other was rescued by an adoption agency.

The Hwy 47 wastewater plant continues to give us fits. It is currently under a consent order from the Environmental Protection Agency because it cannot meet the current emission standards. In addition to that, when we have a major rain fall the flow increases significantly. The plant is rated to handle 1.3 million gallons per day but when it rains like it did in December, the flows can get as high as 6 million gallons per day. This means the plant is so overwhelmed, that it over flows and spills untreated

wastewater into the creek and then to the Cuivre River. We will be asking the voters to approve a bond issue in the April election, so that we can secure a loan from the State Revolving Fund. These funds are needed to make sufficient improvements to the southeast plant, so that we can send all of the flows from the Hwy 47 plant down there and then close down the Hwy 47 plant for good. More information will be sent out to the citizens about this issue so that they can be informed on the situation.

Sales tax deposits for January of 2016 were 4.6% more than deposits for January of 2015. The 1% local sales tax was 4.4% higher, the ½% transportation tax was 4.72% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement tax was 4.74% higher than January of 2015. For the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, our sales tax receipts are up by 5.83% vs. last fiscal year's total.

You have probably noticed the surveyors out on E. Cherry St.; they are part of the Cochran Engineering team that will be designing the replacement of E. Cherry St. and the sidewalks from Main St. to Lincoln Dr. This designing process will take almost a year and when construction starts in 2017, it will take at least another year to complete. In the meantime, I would ask for your patience when driving through the area and watch out for workers. Believe me when I say, this will be well worth the wait once the whole project is completed. Almost half of the 2.4 million dollars for this project will come from state and federal grant funds coming back to Troy. These grant dollars come from the gasoline taxes that we pay with every gallon of fuel that we purchase. The good news is that vehicles passing through Troy that stop and purchase fuel also pay this tax, so they are also helping to fix our streets.

In the building department, site plans have been approved for a new Fast Lane gas station/convenience store on S. Lincoln Dr. and the Bank of Old Monroe which will be located on N. Lincoln Dr. They are already clearing the old cement factory site for the Fast Lane, and the bank will be in front of Tractor Supply and across the street from O'Reilly Auto Parts. In addition, the new Chrysler Dealership has opened and is doing well, so stop in and say hi and check out all of the new cars and trucks that they have available. Finally, the Building Official is working with RLP Development on the site plan for a new Arby's Restaurant which will be located in the east parking lot between the old Ponderosa building and the Plaza Shopping Center.

New housing stats for the first six months of the current FY have already exceeded the budget number that we had for the entire year. We are officially growing again folks.

The Payroll Department has implemented a new time clock software for City employees. This software will increase efficiency and communication between employee/manager as well as accuracy for hours worked and it will connect with our payroll software to expedite employee paychecks.

I would like to thank and congratulate Brian Sinclair for volunteering to fill a spot on the Park Board that came open when George Clay moved to the P and Z Commission. Brian also agreed to serve on the planning and zoning commission. With the experience and knowledge that is gained by serving on these boards, Brian is putting himself into position to run for Alderman someday soon.

That brings me to the topic of the April election for alderman. We have Nicholas Daugherty, Karen Curt and Alexandra Salsman running for Alderman in Ward I, Margaret Eversmeyer in Ward II and George Clay and Todd Walker running in Ward III. I recommend that you seek these people out and talk to them to find out which of them you think would do the best job for you.

I would like to belatedly welcome Marie Eggering to our team here at City Hall. Marie is our new Administrative Assistant and comes to the city after working for Citi Group in O'Fallon. She is a quick study and very personable, so if you haven't already met her, stop by and say hi the next time you come to city hall or speak with her on the phone. We are glad to have Marie here.

I would like to remind everyone to be safe out there. God bless you all and I will see you next month.