

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know that 2018 will bring joy and sadness and a new set of challenges. Remember Proverbs 3: 5-6; "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; In all ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight".

The Board of Alderman met on December 18, 2017 and they took the following actions;

They passed Ordinance 1269 – An ordinance of the City of Troy, Missouri, amending section 210.2340 and setting forth provisions for fireworks under section 210.2340: Fireworks.

The board discussed proposed changes to City ordinances regarding ATV, Utility Vehicle, off-Road vehicle, Motorized Scooters and other related motorized vehicles, sponsored by Alderman Lisa Anderson. After the discussion, the item was tabled.

The board discussed the 911-Dispatching Contract with the Lincoln County Presiding Commissioner Colbert and Captain Mike Pirtle. The two Associate Commissioners were also in attendance. After a brief discussion in closed session, the board voted to sign the contract with the county for 911/dispatching services for the 2018 calendar year. Total cost for the service will be \$186,023.43, up from \$142,606.90 for 2017. These annual charges are in addition to Troy's portion of the 911 Phone tax collected by the state of Missouri and then distributed to the counties across the state. Troy's amount for 2017 (tax year 2015) was \$123,504.63. Commissioner Colbert stated that the 2018 amount more closely represents the value of the service that is being delivered by the Dispatch Center and that Lincoln County was no longer willing/able to subsidize the municipalities. The money will be paid to the county quarterly.

The board approved the final pay application (13) submitted by Cannon General Contractors in the amount of \$158,285.60 for the Main Street sidewalk project.

Also approved was pay application 3 submitted by M & H Concrete contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$105,379.32 for the slab replacement program. Originally the streets scheduled for repair on this project were Excalibur from Bishop to Main St., Hickory Dr. and Hickory Ct. Due to receiving an excellent bid from M & H we were also able to repair Eastbrook Dr., Bridgeway Dr., Pebble Ct. and Third St. from Cherry Blossom Way to the MoDOT right-of-way near the round-about.

Every year the Public Works Department tries to hire three seasonal workers to work from April 1 to October 31 or 1500 hours, whichever comes first. Every year it is a struggle to find qualified people that want to work on a seasonal basis, so the board listened to a presentation from Public Works Superintendent Clint Cunningham to forgo that annual effort and use the total amount of those funds to hire one permanent full time employee. After a brief discussion, the board approved the plan.

Due to the next board meeting date falling on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the board voted to schedule the January board meeting to Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m.

The board approved a transfer and budget amendment from the general fund to the sewer fund in the amount of \$180,000.00 to help pay for the Whitetail Crossing Lift Station project and the Industrial Park sanitary sewer extension.

Awarded and authorized the Mayor to sign the Whitetail Crossing Lift Station Improvements Project to Cannon General Contractors, Inc. as the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$305,635.00 (base bid) and \$41,250.00 (Alternate No. 1).

Approved and Authorized the Mayor to sign the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission License Agreement for the City Monument "Welcome to Troy". This monument will be built at the S. Lincoln Dr. overpass by Landesign and will be paid for completely with private donations. The only cost the City will incur is continuing maintenance and up keep. The black and white sign that currently hangs on the overpass will be removed.

Approved and authorized the Mayor to sign Landesign proposal/contract dated May 11, 2016 and amendment to proposal/contract dated May 11, 2016.

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Cochran Engineering Proposal for professional service in the amount of \$5,880.00 right-of-way survey, \$5,920.00 Topographic survey and \$12,900.00 civil design and reimbursable expenses estimated at \$300.00 for Third St. water main replacement.

Approved draft of FY2017 Audited Financial statements and Authorize the Mayor to sign.

Approved Cochran Engineering Preparing Easement Legal Descriptions, Exhibits and Title Reports on the Mennemeyer Road Project.

The Police Department has spent a considerable amount of the fourth quarter working on their continuing education requirements and, as of December 31, 2017, the entire department is up to date.

After the recent shooting event in Texas, Chief Taylor has been working with local churches and preschools giving safety training. This training will continue through the month of January. It is a shame that we must take these types of precautions, but in today's world you can never be too prepared.

In the water department, we pumped 31,477,000 gallons of water for the month of November for a daily average of 1,049,000 gallons and a peak day of 1,268,000 gallons on November 2nd. We did have a problem with Well 14 going down during the month. The instruments showed that the pump was running, but not moving any water. When Flynn Drilling came to investigate the problem, and pulled the pipe up, there was a separation and three hundred feet of pipe and the motor were still in the well. The repairs have been made, but it was trickier than you might think. It took a couple of weeks to make the repair.

The Public Works Dept. poured 41 yards of concrete for street repairs, and some of the streets that were fixed were, Friendship Ct., Main St. at Summersong, Travis Ct., and Kensington Dr.

Wastewater collection camera'ed 1,020 feet of sewer main, jetted 527 feet of sewer main and brush hogged 1,155 feet of ROW. Found and unburied three manholes, inspected 60 more and repaired three of those. At the same time, they identified several businesses that have grease traps and we will begin a program of inspecting them on a regular basis to make sure they are clean and functioning properly to keep grease from getting into the sewer system and then on to the treatment plants.

All the tornado sirens were tested and are functioning properly.

In wastewater treatment, construction has begun on the sewer main extension on the City's industrial park to bring service to a business that purchased ground for development. The line will also serve an adjoining 40+ acres that is available for development.

The Whitetail Crossing lift station expansion project is about to get underway. When completed we will have sufficient capacity at that location to avoid any more sewer backups in that subdivision. We have made incremental steps over the last several years, and this should be the final piece in solving a major problem. The City appreciates the patience of the folks in the neighborhood.

The improvements to the Crooked Creek project are on hold due to the ground being frozen, but I am confident that by early spring we should see a vast improvement in that property so that we can begin to use it for baseball and soccer. Also in the parks, we have put a temporary pump in the duck pond to keep the water from freezing. The original pump broke and had been repaired so many times that it was not repairable any more. We will budget for a new one in the next fiscal year.

Sales tax deposits for December were 15.5% more than deposits for December of 2016. The 1% local sales tax was 15.44% more, the ½% Transportation tax was 15.7% more and the Capital Improvement's Tax 15.43% more than December of 2016. At the half way point for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, our sales tax receipts are up by 2.23% as compared to the same period in FY2017.

The semi-annual payment of gross receipts tax from Ameren Missouri was received on November 30, 2017 in the amount of \$307,536.13. This represents a decrease of 1.326% over the November 2016 payment. The decrease was essentially in the gas usage portion, as the electric usage was virtually equivalent to last year. This is a gross receipts' tax assessed on commercial electric and natural gas accounts, at a rate of 5%. This payment covers the period of May through October of 2017.

We had two new housing starts during the month of December and have a total of 31 new starts for the first six months of this FY. Depending on the weather, we should see an uptick in new starts after the holiday season ends.

The utility department is alerting citizens of the newly-installed automated telephone pay option available 24 hours a day. Notices will be available on Facebook, the City website and brochures. The information was also placed on the preprinted monthly utility bill. Also available is a utility customer telephone notification service that will be implemented initially with monthly cut-off accounts and eventually include past due accounts.

That is all I have for this month. Please be careful walking and driving as we proceed through the winter, watch out for the other person and above all be kind to one another. God bless you all and I will see you next month.