

The Board of Alderman met on February 22, 2017 and took the following actions;

The board approved two 5K runs - one for the Lincoln County Fair, which will take place July 15, 2017., and a Veteran's Day run to be held November 11, 2017. In other action, the board turned down a request by Mr. Justin Mense to have the city remove the stop sign at W. Pershing and S. Main St. Mr. Mense was interested in moving the stop sign closer to the corner so that he could go back to parking in front of his house. The board voted to turn down that request on the advice of the Chief of Police, Jeff Taylor. Chief Taylor said the sign was put there because when people park closer to the corner, the vision is obstructed for people coming off of W. Pershing onto Main St. by the parked cars. Mr. Mense made a couple of additional suggestions on where to position the sign and the board turned them all down.

Other action taken by the board was to vote to approve Fairgrounds Park as a Historic Landmark, even though it is outside the Historic Preservation boundaries. Both Cale Cannon and John Stanek were approved to serve on the MS4 Storm water Management Committee. Rhonda Schulte withdrew her name for consideration from the park board. Ms. Schulte is the owner of Jani-King cleaning service and has a contract with the city. State statute says that you cannot own a business that is contracting for services with the city and serve on a board or commission. That is considered a conflict of interest. What that means is that there is still an opening for a volunteer to go on the city's Park Board. That goes along with at least two openings on the Historic Preservation Commission. There is the possibility that there could be a third opening once I hear from the last member of the HPC advising me of their decision.

Cochran Engineering Professional Services Agreement for rough grading/bidding on the Crooked Creek Park Project was approved for the Mayor to sign. This is in conjunction with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.

The board approved a request for a rezoning by Special Inn-tensions LLC, located at 298 S. Lincoln Dr., to change from R-1 to C-3

The Mayor was authorized to sign a grant application for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant program for economic development infrastructure upgrade to Mennemeyer Road.

It was approved that the Mayor can sign the three year extension with Meridian Waste Solutions. The agreement is for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021 with no rate increase.

Finally, the board approved a Budget Amendment of \$205,300.00 into Capital Assets: Equipment. The money will be used to purchase replacement membranes for the city's WWTP.

In the Police Department, Sean Brown has been brought on board as the new Reserve Officer. I would like to welcome him to the City and the Police Department. Several of the department's officers will be attending a Storm Spotter class. The class is sponsored by the Health Department and the Fire Dept. Several of our officers have already been certified.

Currently each officer carries his or her own hand gun. The department is looking into the possibility of purchasing city owned side arms for the entire department. The value of this is that we would only have to purchase one type of ammunition, currently we buy four or five different kinds, and every officer would use the same clips. This will be advantageous in the event one officer is at a crime scene and runs

out of ammo, he can borrow a clip from a fellow officer. We are getting bids from the local gun dealers on what this program may cost, we estimate around \$18,000.00. The purchase would be made using drug forfeiture money and not funds from the General Revenue Fund. If an officer would leave the department, they would of course turn the gun back in to be used by a future officer.

The Water Department pumped 31,997,000 gallons of water in the month of January with the highest volume day being on the 7th when we pumped 1,117,000 gallons. The results of the monthly water tests showed that all bacteriological samples were reported absent of any contamination. I would like to remind everyone that it is against City Ordinance for anyone to tamper with a water meter. Those meters belong to the City and if you damage one you would be billed for the repair. We have had citizens in the past mess with their meter and then when they suffered water damage they wanted the City to pay for the damage, however the insurance company said we were not responsible. Just a word of caution.

In the Public Works Department, during the winter months they work on clearing rights-of-way and in January they cleared 5,425 feet. Over 2,000 feet of sewer line was checked with the camera looking for blockages. They are getting bids to reroute a sewer line that currently crosses a creek near Blair Ave. The pipe is old and deteriorated and needs to be replaced, so since we have to do that it was decided to eliminate the creek crossing.

During the month there were five dog-at-large calls. We returned three dogs to their owner, one was picked up by a rescue agency and two are still in the pound.

In the wastewater treatment department, they have ordered replacement membranes for the plant and the cost on those is almost \$200,000.00. While they are waiting for delivery, the crew is cleaning out the basins because it will take several weeks for the membranes to arrive from Japan. The company that the original ones were purchased from was in Texas, but they have since been bought out by a Japanese firm.

Sales tax deposits for February of 2017 were 7.06% more than the same month last year. The 1% Local Sales tax was 7.11% higher, the transportation tax was 6.89% higher and the ½ % Capital improvement tax was 7.12% higher. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, our sales tax receipts are up by 2.28% as compared to the same period in the last FY. Preparation has begun on formulating the 2017-2018 FY budget.

In the Building Department for the month of January, there were five permits for new housing starts. That brings our total of new housing starts for this FY to 42 and we budgeted 43 for the entire year. A citizen by the name of Mark Downey addressed the Planning and Zoning Commission and asked about the possibility of having the property at the corner of Boone and Hwy J rezoned. The commission asked him to present a rough draft site plan and return at the next scheduled meeting.

In the Parks Department, the plan is to open the restrooms no later than April 1st. It all depends on the weather. The contract has been signed to have Midwest Pool Management be responsible for the lifeguards at the pool this summer.

We would like to welcome the two newest members of the Park Board; Jamie Dowling and Rachel Dunard. I would like to thank them for volunteering their time and energy to make the parks and the city more citizen-friendly.

The baseball , soccer and Jr. football organizations have submitted applications for diamond and field usage and Parks Director Ryan Howell is working with all of them to come up with a schedule that fits everyone's needs.

In the Administrative Department, the final steps have been taken to upgrade all of the City facilities to high speed internet. New fiber optic lines had to be installed by CenturyLink in order for this change to take place.

The City's Purchasing Agent has circulated a list of offerings in connection with BuyBoard, a National Cooperative Purchasing group, to all Department Directors for cost comparisons/bidding on equipment and services.

City Hall was a stop on the Government Session for Youth Leadership Troy, a program through Troy Chamber of Commerce. There were nineteen junior and senior high school students that participated in the program. The group visited many public offices at Lincoln County Government , Lincoln County Sheriff's office/jail, Lincoln County Courthouse, 911 Command Center and Troy City Hall.

The Main Street Sidewalk Project preconstruction meeting was held on February 13th with the contractor, engineers, AmerenUE, City personnel and property owner. A Notice to Proceed has been issued for March 19, 2017.

Finally, late last week Troy Area Chamber of Commerce Director Kerry Klump resigned her position after seventeen years of dedicated service to the Lincoln County as a whole and the City of Troy specifically. During Kerry's time with the Chamber, the organization has grown not just in the number of members, but in the influence and energy that is necessary for a growing community. Kerry brought many innovative ideas to the Chamber through her vast knowledge and contacts throughout the State of Missouri, making us a widely known and respected advocate for the area. It was my pleasure to work closely with Kerry from when I joined the Chamber Board of Directors sometime around 2003 and, as is usually the case, worked my way up the ladder until I became President for the year 2007. After getting elected Mayor in 2010, I began working even closer with Kerry as we tried hard to bring new businesses to Troy. I always marveled at the time and energy that she put into the job, and was quietly concerned about how that be effecting her life with her husband, Jared, and daughter, Rory, and they are the reason that she has chosen to step aside - to spend more time with them. There isn't a business in town that she didn't contact as soon as they arrived, and in most cases before they even opened their doors, to see what she and the Chamber could do help them in any way. The Chamber and the community will not fully understand what has been lost by her departure until things come along that she would have taken care of without anyone even noticing. As the Chamber moves forward and looks for a new director, the temptation will be to say that they are looking for a replacement for Kerry and that would be a mistake because no one will be able to replace Kerry and it wouldn't be fair to the new director to expect that of them. The new director will have to establish themselves and bring their own strengths and talents to the job. As one chamber member said "the next phase for the chamber won't be better or worse, just different". Whoever the new director is, I wish them luck and will work with them to make Troy a better place for all of us to live. In the mean time, I would like to wish Kerry the very best in the next part of her life and I hope we get to see her around so that we can all tell that.

Finally, it has been my pleasure and joy to have gotten to know Kerry and more importantly to have worked with her. I want her to know that I consider her a very close friend and that I treasure that more than anything else that has happened over the last seventeen years.

That is it for this month. As the weather warms up we will all be doing more things outside I encourage you to enjoy that and also to get to know your neighbors better. It will make our corner of the world a better place. Be kind to one another and God bless you all.