

All City employees have completed an Anti-Harassment training class put on by Tonya Hawkins, our Deputy City Clerk and Human Resources professional. Other training that took place was an active shooter drill conducted by the Troy City Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and a tornado drill.

A member of each department took a class on website management and they are now task with the responsibility of keeping their departments' news and information up to date on the City's website. Check out the website for valuable information.

The Park Board met on March 9, 2015 and discussed the following topics; they will be developing policies governing park memorials, advertising and community events. Also, the ordinance required for the City to participate in the Tree City USA program is almost ready for the Park Boards review. Another item for discussion was the ongoing problem with park vandalism and trash at the skate park. As the parks open the restrooms for the season and the parks get more busy with the warmer weather the arises the concern about vandalism. I would ask everyone that uses the parks to keep your eyes open and if you see some suspicious activity taking place please call the police. DO NOT try to confront anyone yourself. The Park Board is going to draft a Mission and Vision Statement. Once complete that document will be posted on the Cities webpage along with updated Park information. Finally, once the weather warms and the asphalt plants open for business our plan is to have the parking lot at Fairgrounds Park repaved with asphalt and then striped for parking spaces. This will probably cause some inconvenience but in the end the parking situation will be much improved. Also in the Parks Department, Team Elite Booster Club received the bid to run the concession stand at Fairgrounds Park again this year. Under the contract they will pay the City 13% of the gross sales.

In the Public Works department we are trying to keep the potholes filled as best we can until the weather warms and stays warm enough that we can make permanent repairs. With the weather improving it will help with ruptured water lines. As the ground freezes and thaws it causes the pipes to move and if they move enough they will break. During the prior month we replaced one eight inch shut off valve, 260 feet of water main and one fire hydrant. A portion of that work was done to repair broken equipment and pipe.

We picked up three at large dogs this past month and I am happy to report that they have all been returned to their homes.

Sales tax deposits for March of 2015 were 17.91% more than for the same period last year. The 1% local sales tax was 17.54% higher than last March, the ½% Transportation Tax was 19.14% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement Tax was 17.53% higher than last year. With three quarters of the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year behind us, our sales tax deposits are up by 11.42% as compared to the same period in FY2014.

At the request of Alderman Ron Walters the board voted to lower the speed limit on W. Cherry St. from 30 mph to 20 mph because of the children that walk that street to and from school.

The City is purchasing a new Aqua Tech B-10CombinationJetter-Hydro Excavation truck for the Water and Sewer Dept. The Board of Alderman approved the bid from Mahoney Equipment. The Public Works Dept. has done extensive demonstrations on the trucks over the last several months. The Aqua Tech truck outperformed all the others when it came to a live demo. It performed tasks that our current Hydro truck has never been able to accomplish. The Public Works Dept. believes this truck will meet our needs both now and in the future. The list price for this tool is \$365,331 less the trade in value of our

old truck of \$85,000.00 for a final cost of \$280,331.00. It will be financed over five years through Clayton Holdings L.L.C. (a Division of Commerce Bank) with equal payments of \$58,466.96 on an interest rate of 1.70%.

The Board of Alderman voted to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This was done in conjunction with the Child Center, Inc. which is a not-for-profit organization whose mission statement is responding to child abuse through a supportive team approach to reduce the trauma to children and their non-offending family members by Healing-Helping and Hope.

A bid was awarded to Mick Mehler and Sons, Inc. to carry out the developed plan to eliminate the drainage problem in Weinand Park. They have been given the notice to proceed so I am sure that it won't be long before you see that work causing an inconvenience but in the end the situation will be much improved and the park will be more usable.

A contract was agreed to between the city and Woodard & Curran for an environmental consulting services agreement. This way we/they will be able to begin designing upgrades to our WWTP.

A discussion was held and authorization was given to the Mayor to enter into Professional Engineering Services in regard to concrete streets by Bartlett & West Engineering in regard to concrete streets in The Legends and Huntington Subdivisions.

Finally, a discussion was held and authorization was given to advertise for an RFQ (request for qualifications) to find a firm to do a retail market analysis and hotel feasibility study. This information has been requested several times recently by developers looking at Troy as a possible location for a business they represent. I thought it would be good to gather this information so we can add it to the packets of information that we send out when we are talking to different companies and trying to get them to come to Troy. These are opportunities for new businesses for the citizens of Troy to shop as well as the jobs that they bring.

That is it for this month. As the weather gets warmer more people will be outside so watch for kids playing and workers that will be out there. I don't want to see anyone get hurt. Be kind to each other and God Bless you all and I will see you next month.