

At this month's meeting the board was approached by Kelsey Baker about the possibility of planting flowers and plants in Fairgrounds Park that are native to this area. She is willing to plant and maintain the flowers in various areas of the park for all to enjoy. The Board of Alderman approved her request and wished her luck with her program.

The Chief of Police reported that there are two 5K run/walks coming up, one is for the Life Restoration Center on March 28<sup>th</sup> and Calvary Orphan Outreach on April 18<sup>th</sup>. He said that these events will not cause a strain on police duties.

In Public Works, there were six tons of asphalt placed in potholes during the last month. The storm sirens were tested on January 6<sup>th</sup> and all were found to be working except one. When the weather gets a little warmer it will be inspected to make repairs. There were four dog at large calls this past month. Two of the dogs were returned to their owner and two were taken to the adoption agency. If the two that went to the agency had City tags we would have been able to contact the owner and return the dogs.

Sales tax deposits for January of 2015 were 12.74% more than deposits for January of 2014. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 12.77% higher, the ½% Transportation Tax was 12.97% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement's Tax was 12.47% higher than January of 2014. For 2014-2015 Fiscal year, our sales tax receipts are up by 10.93% as compared to the same period in FY 2014.

A recent change in software allowed the City to audit the annual sales tax listings from the State and with the City's business listing and identified several home occupation businesses that need licensing. Letters were sent to notify these businesses of the City's licensing ordinance. If you have a home based business you are required by ordinance to have a City business license.

Official candidate ballot information was hand delivered to the County Clerk on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Candidate declarations are as follows: Ward I – Ron Sconce, Ward II – Kris Watt and Lisa Anderson, Ward III- Dennis Detert.

The Board of Alderman, with Janet Bass Ward I and Ron Walters Ward III absent, voted on several ordinances. An ordinance updating the Flexible Spending Account Service Agreement failed on a 3-1 vote. The ordinance came from the IRS and would have allowed employees voluntarily participating in the program to carry up to \$500.00 of unused funds forward to the next year. Ward II Alderman Eversmeyer voted nay. With the two absent alderman the remaining four would have all had to vote in the positive. The second ordinance voted on authorized the Mayor to execute a Quit Claim Deed to transfer .072 acres of ground in the City right-of-way. The ordinance passed 4-0. The third ordinance authorized the Mayor to execute The Transportation Alternatives Funds Program Agreement and setting forth required contract provisions for the federal – aid construction contract. This covers the required paperwork for the City to receive \$240,000.00 in grant money to build a new sidewalk on the west side of Main St. from Main Street Elementary School to connect with the sidewalk at College St. The ordinance passed 4-0. Finally the long wait is over for the Historic Preservation ordinance revisions. The ordinance passed 4-0.

The Mayor and Alderman Anderson present Ryan Howell to the Board of Alderman as the chosen candidate for the new Director of Parks and Recreation position. The board agreed and we look forward to Ryan starting his new job on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Ryan currently works for the Wentzville Parks Department

so he will bring much needed experience to the job. The City received over thirty applications from vary highly qualified candidates thereby making the decision difficult but we believe that Ryan is the man for the job.

The City will be receiving a check for \$25,478.61 from the insurance company to replace the roof on the southwest sewer plant because of hail damage. That project will not start until the weather warms considerably.

Work on the new water well on South Third Street is progressing. Flynn Drilling is now digging the full size hole and casing the first 865 feet with steel pipe and then will dig down to a total depth of 1500 feet. We are anticipating this new well to produce as much as 500 gallons per minute when it comes on line. That would make it one of the two best wells the City has.

That is it for this month. Be nice to each other and God bless you all.