

It's hard to believe that another month has gone by but here we are again with this month's update.

Even though the weather may not feel like it, the Aquatic Center opened on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> so if you don't have your pool pass yet now is the time. At the same time, the lake at Fairgrounds Park has been stocked and is open for fishing. The Park Board is looking into putting up some signs around the lake informing citizens on what kind of foods that the ducks should eat. A lot of people have expressed concern over the health and wellbeing of the ducks so an effort will be made to improve the situation. Another recommendation of the Park Board was to put a light in the area around the tire park so Ryan Howell the Parks Director will look into the feasibility and cost of that project and report back to the board.

The Park Board will be presenting the Tree City USA program to the Board of Alderman. This program will help the City maintain the health and appearance of the trees in the city.

The Park Board has also recommended to the Board of Alderman that there be no use of metal detectors in any of the city parks. This will bring all of the city's parks into alignment with the state and federal parks which have never allowed this type of activity to take place. We don't need people digging in the parks only to find some useless piece of metal.

If the weather cooperates, and there hasn't been much of that lately, the project to repair the drainage issue at Weinand Park will begin the first week of June. The work should not last more than two weeks and then we just have to wait for the grass to grow back.

At the May 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Alderman meeting the board approved the two contracts with the Troy Area Chamber of Commerce that cover the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Economic Development for the city. This arrangement has been beneficial to the city for a number of years and we look forward to the continued relationship.

The BOA approved the contract with Bartlett and West for Professional Engineering Services in regard to TAP Grant Sidewalk Project. This is the sidewalk that will be on the west side of Main St. from Main Street Elementary School to College St.

The Board approved several purchases for the Police Department all of them will be funded by Drug Forfeiture monies. The purchases include; (3) Stalker Radar Units, Safety equipment consisting of cones and signs to be used at check points and/or accident scenes and finally, the purchase and training of a German Shepherd dog to be used as a second canine unit.

Lt. Walker attended the Train-the-trainer course on May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> for the National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training Program. This training centers on safety concerns with officers and first responders being injured during traffic incidents. The federal government is providing this training in an attempt to standardize the procedures used across the country. The training is offered free of charge. At the same time we are looking for a scholarship which would cover the cost of lodging. On completing this training, Lt. Walker will then be able to provide training to our department.

The SWWTP has a new roof. The old roof had been damaged by hail and John Beal Roofing was the low bidder and they completed the work about two weeks ago. Special sensors have been placed in the trunk lines leading to the two sewer treatment plants to get a more accurate reading of exactly how

much flow is going to the plants. That way as we plan for improvements we will have good information from the get go.

Sales tax deposits for May of 2015 were 18.73% lower than deposits for May of 2014. The 1% local sales tax was 19.93% lower, the ½% transportation tax was 19.45% lower and the ½% Capital Improvement Tax was 15.43% lower than May of 2014. May's deposits would be for March collections. For the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, our sales tax deposits are 9.2% higher than the same period last year. We are currently in the process of putting together the 2015-2016 FY budget that has to be adopted by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

New housing starts are up this year. We had five new starts during the month of May which brings the total for the year to 46 and we have another month to go. We did 38 total for all of last year.

Well that's it for this month. I know that the weather has to get warmer some time so hang in there and I will talk to all of you again next month.

In the meantime be kind to one another and God bless you all.