

I hope you are all doing well as we enter the 2014 holiday season. I know that it is always a stressful time of the year for many people so I would hope that you can take a little time to stop and think about the many blessings that we all have, we have much to be thankful for. Remember the reason that we should be celebrating Christmas and that is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Police Department is completing a three year cycle of continuing education training. By the end of 2014 all of the department personnel will be up to date on their training. In light of recent events that is a very significant milestone. Very soon the stripping will be complete on the three new squad cars. You may have notice that the department now has three Dodge Chargers in the fleet, very similar to the type driven by the MCHP. Finally, around December 10<sup>th</sup> officer Chris Hollingsworth will be returning to the force. Officer Hollingsworth has spent the last year on active duty with the U.S. Army stationed in Kosovo. We welcome him back and are glad he returned to us safely.

The Public Works Department has purchased a new hand held tablet and software that they can use to map the location of all of the City's sewer lines, water lines and storm sewers. You can indicate where the storm inlets, fire hydrants and manholes are. This is valuable knowledge in case of a natural disaster as well as everyday maintenance. The information on when a repair was made and what type of repair will allow the City to generate reports for MoDNR and the EPA to show what progress has been made on our I and I situation. They informed me that they have already found errors in the locations that were indicated under the old system.

Sales tax deposits for November of 2014 were 7.49% more than deposits for November of 2013. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 6.18% higher, the 1/2% Transportation Tax was 11.28% higher and the 1/2% Capital Improvement's Tax was 6.49% higher than November of 2013. For the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year our sales tax receipts are up by 11.93% as compared to the same period in FY2014.

Representatives from the accounting firm of Croghan and Croghan P.C. at city hall early in November to do the field work for this year's financial audit for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. submitted to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board and posted on the Electronic Municipal Market Access website no later than December 31, 2014.

Since this is typically a slow time of year for home building that was reflected in that we only issued two new housing permits for the month of December.

The first day of candidate filing for the April 7, 2015 Municipal Election begins at 8:00 a.m. on December 16, 2014. Candidate filing end at 4:30p.m. on January 20, 2015. There are three seats, one in each ward, that are up for election in April. HB 1136 enacted during this year's legislative session deleted Section 115.305 RSMo which exempted municipalities from the provisions of the subchapter on Political Parties and Nomination of Candidates. As a result, candidates for municipal office are required to file an affidavit with their Declaration of Candidacy that they are not delinquent on state income taxes, personal property taxes, municipal taxes or real property taxes with the Missouri Department of Revenue.

The risk manager for Missouri Rural Services-Workers Compensation Trust brought the City's annual report along with statistics over the last ten years for review. The risk manager encouraged the City's Safety Committee to investigate all incidents for proactive remedies to curb future injuries and volunteered to address the group on safety issues in February-March of 2015. Overall the City's experience rating remains low and consistent.

The Board of Alderman approved the creation of the position of Director of Parks and Recreation. The new Director will be in charge of managing the aquatic center as well as all of the activities in the city parks. They will be tasked with developing new activities like summer day camps, various lessons and so forth. This person will also be in charge of seeking out and securing any grant monies that be out there that would allow us to improve the park system. The funds that are being used to pay the pool management company will be the source of the money for the new director's salary. We are developing a job description so that we can get someone hired as soon as possible after the first of the new year. This is a very exciting first step towards what I hope will improve the quality of life for the citizens of Troy.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holiday season be joyful and safe. Be kind to one another and I will see you again in 2015.