

At the latest Board of Alderman meeting the board passed 6-0 and ordinance directing the execution of the flexible spending account service agreement. As you may remember, this issue failed at last month's meeting but after answering some questions that the some alderman had their concerns were taken care of. Another ordinance that was passed was this version of one that we pass every year. What it does is line up the ordinances that the City of Troy has passed in the past year with any state statutes that have been enacted. With the statutes being the final authority.

In some housekeeping items, the board voted to approve the permit and site plan for the new middle school on the Crooked Creek property off of Adlehardt Rd.; they voted to allow the department heads to hire and fire seasonal workers without coming to the board for approval and finally they approved putting together the contract with Midwest Pool Management for only the services that the City wants.

The Troy Police Department has started training for their officers to obtain continuing education hours for the next reporting period. On February 19th the department conducted a class on racial profiling and professional traffic stops. The department will also be receiving training on Youth Mental Health First Aid. The course will be taught by Kristi Gregory who is the counselor for New Horizons. Counselor Gregory got in touch with the department after attending an instructor class for this course. The first class was on February 24th and six officers attended. Counselor Gregory has agreed to teach this course on other dates so that all of the officers will receive the training.

Sales tax deposits for February of 2015 were up 7.38% over February 2014. The 1% local sales tax was 7.55% higher, the ½% Transportation Tax was 6.78% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement's Tax was 7.63% higher than February 2014. February's deposits would be for December's collection. For the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, our sales tax receipts are up by 10.52% compared to the same period in FY2014.

During the month of January the City used 100 tons of salt on the streets and placed 15 tons of asphalt in potholes. The Public Works Department inspected 25 main holes plus 5000 feet of sewer main and cleaned another 5000 feet of sewer main. During the inspections they made 8 point repairs for clean water leaking into the system.

So far during this fiscal year the City has issued 28 permits for new housing starts. That would put us 13.5% ahead of 2013-2014 fiscal year. Since the first of January the city has issued 8 permits and that takes us to 29.7% ahead of last year. This is good news because it means that real estate is selling again in the City limits.

During the month of February most of the departments are going through closed files according to the State's retention schedule, compiling destruction lists and or permanent records in an effort to clean-up and organized storage areas.

Construction on Cherry Blossom Way will be picking up momentum so I advise everyone to try to find an alternate route since the street will be more narrow and the trucks will still be using it to get to Bodine and M.O.S.T.

Now that February is over maybe the weather will start to improve. I know that I would love to see the end of the snowy season. Please be careful when out driving in the snow and be kind to one another.

God Bless you all.