

The city would like to express its gratitude to the owners of Behlman Buick/Cadillac, Mr. Dan Behlman and Mr. Douglas Kohnan, for donating \$1000.00 per quarter for the next year to purchase dog food for our canine unit. Chief of Police Jeff Taylor presented a plaque to them at the Board of Alderman meeting on December 16th. Mr. Behlman and Mr. Kohnan are new to Troy and we would like to welcome them and wish them success.

We would like to thank all of those citizens that took time to call and compliment the Public Works Dept. on the fine job they did on snow removal. The storm came in two waves over the course of the night time hours and by mid-morning on Saturday the streets in town were in very good shape. I also want to thank all of the citizens that live along the snow routes in Troy for cooperating by having their vehicles off of the street so the plows could clear all the way to the curb. Keep up the good work. Just as a point of reference we used 75 tons of salt and 5000 gallons of deicer on the streets during the recent storm.

Recently a driver ran off the road on Main St. just south of College and took out a fire hydrant and a bench then left the scene of the accident. Fortunately he left his calling card behind in the form of his license plate so that the city can contact him and recover the funds needed to pay for the repairs. I would like to thank him for his cooperation.

Sales tax deposits for December of 2013 were up by 2.84% as compared to December of 2012. The 1% local sales tax was 2.7% higher, the 1/2% transportation tax was 2.25% higher and the 1/2% Capital Improvement Tax was 3.66% higher than last December. Those deposits represent sales tax payments for the month of October. At the half way point through the 2014 fiscal year our sales tax receipts are up by 1.9%

Standard and Poor's recently upgraded the credited rating City of Troy, Missouri Series 2012 Certificated of Participation to AA- with a stable outlook. An "A" credit rating means the obligor has STRONG capacity to meet its financial commitments. This is good news for the City as it is affirmation the City is maintaining its practice of sound financial management and continues to be a good steward of City funds. In 2012, the City applied for a credit rating through Standard and Poor's. Prior to the application, the City had not carried a credit rating. The City, based on its strong operating history, continuity of board, management and staff, broad service area, strong liquidity and working capital, received a rating of AA-. AA- is in the top four rating categories nationally and only three categories away from the State of Missouri which is AAA rated. The stronger than anticipated rating allowed the City to obtain a lower interest rate and thus increase savings. The 2012 refinancing of \$6.972 million provided the City with debt service savings of approximately \$1.007-million over the then remaining 13-years of the remaining life of the issue.

The City Clerk, Jodi Schneider, wants to remind everyone that filing is underway for anyone that would like to run for office in the City's municipal election in April. Offices that will be on the ballot are Mayor (4 year term) and Alderman (two year term) in Wards I, II and III. The last day for candidate filing is January 21st at 4:30pm.

The Board of Alderman approved a new management contract with Midwest Pool Management for the upcoming swimming season. Due to numerous requests by citizens one major change will be implemented. In the past once school started the pool was only open on Saturdays and Sundays. This year the pool will be open for additional hours on Monday through Friday from 4pm to 8pm. There will be no increase in the admission fees.

At the Board of Alderman meeting on December 2nd a bill was proposed, by Ward III Alderman Ron Walters, for an ordinance that would have given the police the authority to stop someone for not wearing their seatbelt. Currently state law makes that a secondary offence but this ordinance would have made it a primary offence in the City of Troy. Thirty four municipalities around the state have adopted a similar ordinance. At the board meeting on December 16th Alderman Walters withdrew the bill for consideration at the recommendation of Chief Taylor. Some of the above mentioned municipalities ordinances are being challenged on the grounds that they supersede state law and that is not legal. If we get any additional information I will keep you advised.

The Board of Alderman discussed placing a measure on the April 2014 ballot proposing to change the 2% city sales tax that is collected on cars, boats and trailers purchased outside the state or from individuals to a local use tax of 2%. There would be no increase in the taxes collected and again it would only affect individuals purchasing vehicles outside the state of Missouri. This election is required by the State of Missouri. You will be receiving additional information as we get closer to the April election.

The Board of Alderman approved a contract with Cochran Engineering to do the engineering on a water line that would take water from the west side of highway 61 to the east side. The thought being that new development will take place on the east side of the highway now that the S. Lincoln Dr. overpass has been completed. The city already has sewer service in that area and this way we will be prepared for that future development.

Finally, I hope that all of you and your families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I will talk to you next month.

Be kind to one another and God bless you all.