

The recent cold weather has caused a lot of concern among some citizens about animals being left outside when the temperature drops. I received several emails and phone calls suggesting that I issue an order that would allow the Troy Police Department to pick up dogs that the owners refused to bring in out of the cold. Similar to what St. Louis Mayor Slay issued. First I would like to say that because Troy is a fourth class city I am not given the authority to issue such an order. Secondly, in many cases the city's facility is not as good as the conditions the dogs were in before we picked them up. The city currently has an ordinance in place addressing the abuse of animals and in the one case that I was directly involved with the dog owner was in compliance with that ordinance. The Chief of Police and I are looking at ordinances from other cities to see how they handle these situations and then modify Troy's ordinance to better address these types of situations. I will give you more information as we move forward.

All members of the Police Department are undergoing a Lockup Training Program. This program is designed to teach the officers how to control a suspect that is resisting in such a way that neither the suspect or the officer is injured. Other training that will be taking place is a CPR course for all members of the department put on by Detective Roger Mauzy.

I thought it might be interesting to you that during the big snow storm a few weeks ago the Public Works Department used 200 tons of salt, 3000 gallons of deicer and 6000 gallons brine in their fight to keep the streets clear. The total cost to the city was approximately \$23,000.00 adding in fuel and labor. I received many compliments and a few complaints from citizens about the job they did, including some folks that said they thought that Troy's streets were in better shape than those in nearby communities. When we received a complaint we sent a truck out to fix it right away as well as replacing the mailboxes that were knocked down. The latter being an unfortunate byproduct of pushing that much snow.

The cold weather is also hard on water lines believe it or not. When the ground freezes and thaws it contracts and expands and sometimes a water line will break. Such was the case on E. Cherry St. near Cherry Street Grill where a six inch main broke and on Old Cap au Gris where a four inch main broke. The weather conditions along with all of the water made the job a little difficult but repairs were made as quickly as possible.

Sales tax deposits for January 2014 were up by 6.36% as compared to January of 2013. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 6.35% higher, the ½% Transportation Tax was 6.43% higher and ½% Capital Improvement's Tax was 6.47% higher than January of 2013. January's deposits would be for November's collections. Our sales tax receipts for Fiscal year 2014 are up by 2.51% YTD.

Candidate filing for the April 8<sup>th</sup> municipal election closed on January 21<sup>st</sup> with the following results: Mayor - Mark Cross; Ward I – Brian Sinclair, Karen Hotfelder, Janet Bass; Ward II – Margaret Eversmeyer; Ward III – Ron Walters.

The Board of Alderman passed an ordinance authorizing a ballot issue for a Use Tax of 2% on the April ballot. This Use Tax would be a replacement for the sales tax, also 2%, currently being collected on purchases of automobiles, trailers and boats that are purchased from individuals and/or out of state. Local merchants would be at a disadvantage competing against out of state merchants. I will have more information on this topic shortly.

Starting on February 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a new restaurant at 380 Main St., it will be called Sami's on Main Street. Check them out and wish them luck. At the same time Mustang Sally's has reopened after going through remodeling so let's wish Sally success as well.

On Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>, the Public Works Department opened the sealed bids for the mold remediation project at the S.E. Waste Water Treatment plant. We received two sealed bids. The bidders were Service Master of St. Charles/Troy, MO and Patriot Commercial Construction. The recommendation to the Board was to select Service Master with a bid of \$648,254.00. After some discussion the item was tabled and a decision was made to split the construction portion and the remediation portion into two projects and then send it out for bidding again.

Finally, I would like to welcome the newest member of the Public Works Department, Jared Colbert. Jared started with the city on January 31<sup>st</sup> and came to us from Geeding Construction. We are glad to have Jared and look forward to a long and happy working relationship.

Well that's it, I hope you all keep warm until we meet again. Be safe out there and God bless you all.