

June is always a busy month as we get ready to close out one fiscal year and start another. The Board of Alderman has been hard at work on a budget for the new year with many decisions that need to be made on how to spend your money on the projects that need to be done. Each of the Department Heads had submitted the items that they felt they needed/wanted for their department and then the board had to go through and choose what would stay and what would go. Some of the items that made the final cut were; three new squad cars for the Police Department. In the Public Works Department, a new camera for the sewer camera truck and a new Vactor truck; money for a used front loader for the street department. For the parks there is money for fixing the drainage problem in Weinand Park and to fix the parking lots in Weinand and Fairgrounds Park; a new surface for the walking trail in Weinand park and the basketball court in Fairgrounds Park. Finally, we will spend over \$1,000,000.00 on street repairs in addition to the Cherry Blossom Way project. Some of the things that did not make the cut were, money for construction of a new water line on the east side of Hwy 61 that would have extended from Whitcomb Woods Subdivision north to the new Lincoln Dr. overpass, some new overhead doors for the Public Works Department and audio visual equipment for the Board of Alderman room which would have made it easier for the public to see and hear what was going on in the various meeting that take place in the board room. On a split vote of 4-2 the board decided that they did not want to spend the estimated \$30,000.00 for those improvements. Those are the highlights, the Board of Aldermen met on June 26th to approve the final budget.

The Board of Alderman accepted a gift from the Troy Kiwanis Club of new playground equipment to replace the worn out equipment in Fairgrounds Park. The city crew will be responsible for taking down the old equipment and the Kiwanis Club members will be responsible for installing the new equipment. There are a lot of positive things planned for the parks in the coming year but one negative note is that due to several break-ins the temporary concession stand will be taken out of service. The group that contracted to run the concession stands said that they could no longer afford to replace the stolen merchandise and with nowhere else to place the stand due to energy requirements they decided to close it down. It really is a sad state of affairs when a few hooligans ruin something that benefits so many people.

The Police Department would like to start a citizen Police Academy. During the seven week course participants will learn about different functions of the police department. Officers and supervisors from areas such as patrol, recruiting, investigation, narcotics, K9 and The City of Troy Police Departments Special Operations Unit will provide an overview of each division and in some cases, give hands on training and demonstrations. Upon completion of the course, participants will have a graduation ceremony and are presented with a Citizen's Police Academy Diploma. CPA graduates are also permitted to ride along with an officer on patrol during a regular tour of duty. The mission of the Citizen's Academy is to educate and inform the community of neighborhood problems, to provide a forum for police/community interaction and to foster a partnership with the community that will enhance better problem solving. The City of Troy Police Department and the community should work together to create a safer community and environment. Contact the Troy Police Department for more details, 528-4725. So far this season the Police Department has issued 139 tall grass citations. Please keep your grass cut, it make the city look so much better.

Some of you may know that the City was digging a pilot hole for a possible future well site. Unfortunately we had two problems at the selected sight. One, when the drillers reached a certain depth they hit a pocket of sand. Consequently as they tried to dig deeper the hole would fill with sand to the point where they almost were unable to pull their drill out of the hole. They were unable to continue drilling so they had to test the water that they had found at a depth of 700". That test came

back with unacceptable water samples. We are going to have to abandon that site and find another place to drill again. That is the nature of well drilling. We are going to look for an additional location, preferably on the City owns, and try drilling again. That way we can save the money it would cost to acquire another site.

Sales tax deposits for June of 2014 were 5.97% less than deposits for June of 2013. The 1% local sales tax was 6.63% lower, the 1/2% transportation tax was 3.93% lower and the ½% Capital Improvement Tax was 6.55% lower than June of 2013. For the fiscal year 2014 finished at 1.77% more than sales tax receipts for Fiscal Year 2013. Total sales tax was \$2,211,167.84; total transportation tax was \$1,065,148.80; total Capital Improvement tax was \$1,100,739.81.

With the start of the new year 383 business license renewals have been sent out. This is the first year that we have had new software to be able to track something like this so it will be interesting to be able to compare from year to year.

All of the easements have been obtained along Cherry Blossom Way. We have forwarded the final design plans to the Department of Economic Development for review. Once they give the okay we will go out for bid. You may have noticed that Ameren has been working to move their power lines back so that we are ready to start work.

That is it for this month. I am anxious for this fiscal year to begin on July 1st because there are quite a number of things scheduled to take place. Things, I think, that will make Troy a more attractive and better place to live. Be careful now that the hot weather has arrived and above all, be considerate of one another and God bless you all.