

I am a little late getting this month's message out; I was preoccupied with the municipal election. I would like to thank everyone that voted for me, and I plan to continue working hard to make Troy a wonderful place to live for all of the citizens, whether they voted for me, or not, or didn't vote at all.

The Board of Alderman meeting on March 19th, 2018 and took the following actions:

Mr. Royce Beans approached the Board of Alderman with a request for a street light at Hwy 47 and Anna Avenue. The board took the request under advisement, while the City considers what options are available as far as a location is concerned.

Under old business, the board spent a considerable amount of time discussing the proposed sales tax to fund the countywide 911/dispatch service. The Commissioners have put this sales tax forward to eliminate the annual escalating user fees that are crippling municipal budgets. The current 911 tax on land line phones continues to decrease as more people do away with their land lines. Residents of Lincoln County, or any other county, that are not paying for a land line phone are not paying for the 911 service. Until the State Legislature acts to remedy this situation, each county or municipality must act on their own. When the voters approve this sales tax, a new independent board, separate from the County Commissioners, would be elected to administer the 911/dispatch center and budget and monitor the funds. After the spirited discussion, the board voted 3 – 3 forcing the Mayor to break the tie in favor of going along with the commissioner's plan. If any of the users of the current system fail to vote to go along with the sales tax plan, there would be no election. The Commissioners feel that it would not be fair for the rest of the agencies to cover the lost funds and then the agency that voted not to participate would still reap the value of the newly upgraded system. If all of this sounds rather complicated, it is, so feel free to contact me at City Hall and I will be happy to go over it with you.

The BOA authorized the Mayor to sign a document for the Troy Police Department to participate in Missouri's Highway Safety Program for Traffic Enforcement.

The BOA approved subdividing and Final (Record) Plat for the location of 571 S. Lincoln Dr. requested by Jim Baker, applicant on behalf of Fast Lane #35, recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The BOA also approved the preliminary site plan review for the location at #1 Front Street, Bank of America Subdivision, for a proposed retail space requested by David Lehnert, applicant recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

A contract was approved with the Elite Booster Club for 2018 operations of the concession stand in Fairgrounds Park where the City will be paid 13% of the proceeds.

The board approved the bid and authorized the Mayor to enter into a contract for the sale of the real estate at 650 Cap au Gris to Trevor Wright, in the amount of \$21,900.00 as the highest bidder.

The transfer of Ameren Protested License Taxes to General Fund in the amount of \$1,632.15 was approved.

A Budget Amendment for Police Overtime in the amount of \$5,200.00 from the Missouri Highway Safety Grant Reimbursements.

The Board discussed and approved a contract with Woodard and Curran for on-call engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant not to exceed \$10,000.00.

The board discussed but turned down a request by the Public Water Supply district #2 to purchase 25 sewer taps. The board thought that it was best to take care of new customers within the City Limits of Troy first, before selling to outside customers.

The board heard a presentation on the Kiwanis Park project by Kiwanis International and Community Opportunities.

On March 20th, Chief Taylor and Lieutenant Dustyn Tienter, the police department Tactical Leader, attended a pipe line safety preparedness meeting in Chesterfield, MO.

Lt. Detective Mauzy attended the FBI/LEA Program Leadership Training course. This training is so important for keeping our Police Department up to date on the current techniques and procedures in today's law enforcement community.

With the departure of Officer Tyler Holton, K-9 Lobo has been reassigned to K-9 Officer Sean Brown and the two are adapting to each other and training between them is going very well. At the same time K-9 Officer Ryan Parker is working with the newest member of the Police Department, K-9 Murphy who is the puppy of K-9 Nitro. Watch the Troy PD Facebook Page and the City's Facebook Page for Monday's with Murphy, which is a weekly update on Murphy's progress in both physical growth and professional growth.

In the Water Department, we pumped 28,802,000 gallons in the month of February with maximum one-day output on the 14th with 1,187,000 gallons. With the new system the City has in place for notifying customers when bills are due, we have reduced the number of delinquent shutoffs by half. That is an amazing reduction since it is not the City's fault that bills are paid late. It is great that we are able to keep that number to a minimum.

We had one water main break at Alden and Lewis Streets, which was caused by the combination of cold weather and old pipes.

The monthly test of the emergency siren system went off without a hitch as all eight of the sirens functioned properly.

In the Wastewater Treatment Department, the Whitetail Crossing Lift station expansion project started on or about April 1st. This project should be the last step toward eliminating sewer backups in the area.

At the Hwy 47 treatment facility, we had a problem with a collapsed line that was put in during the 1996 expansion. Unfortunately, the drain for the backflow preventer had been tied to the sanitary sewer, allowing fresh water to get into the treatment plant. In addition, a leaky fire hydrant in the yard has been leaking for a while, but instead of the water coming to the surface it was running to the backflow preventer drain and eventually overloaded the sanitary sewer service. After finding numerous blockages in the line, it was filled with concrete to eliminate the problem and a new grinder pump was installed.

Several members of the team successfully completed continuing education training courses with MoDNR.

Camera inspections were done to almost a mile of sanitary sewer lines (4,853') and another quarter of a mile (1,366') were jetted to clean out potential blockages.

Meetings were conducted with numerous businesses about installing and maintaining grease traps to keep fats, oils and grease from getting into the sewerage collection system and causing blockages and backups. From now on, there will be frequent and ongoing inspections of these grease traps to make sure that are clean and well maintained.

Now some sad news: The Hwy 47 Wastewater Treatment Plant had an intermittent bypass from February 21, 2018 through February 25, 2018. The overflow was estimated at 2,150,000 gallons total. During that time, we recorded 4.69 inches of rain. The bypass was reported to MoDNR and posted to the City's website as directed by the EPA.

Sales tax deposits for March of 2018 were 4.31% more than deposits for March of 2017. The 1% Local Sales Tax was 2.99% more, the ½% Transportation Tax was 8.53% more, and the ½% Capital Improvement Tax was 2.99% more than deposits for March of 2017. With three quarters of the sales taxes for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year collected, our sales tax deposits are up by 1.51% as compared to the same period in FY 2017.

Budget worksheets were turned in by all Department Heads for the FY 2018-2019 budget and workshops will be held with the staff and the Alderman to go over them and refine them into a balanced budget for the next FY. These meetings are open to the public and if you would like to attend these workshops, call City Hall and talk to the City Clerk, Jodi Schneider for dates and times.

In the building Department, during the month of February there were seven new housing permits issued with a total valuation of \$980,000.00. For the eight months of the current fiscal year, the department has issued a total of 50 new residential housing permits. That puts us behind our estimate for the year, but as the weather warms up and dries out I think we will see an uptick in the number of permits issued.

Also in the Building Department, the P and Z Commission approved a site plan for a retail development in the open lot between the Bank of America and the Express Care Oil Change location. There is no word on what businesses might be going into the new development.

The Parks Department is taking applications for seasonal workers for jobs at the Aquatic Center and the new contract was signed with Midwest Pool for this season's lifeguards.

There will be a "Cruise for a Cause" Car Show in Fairgrounds Park on May 12th. All proceeds will be divided up among several charities. Come out to see the fancy cars and help some worthy causes. There will be food trucks and other attractions as well, so come out and have a good time.

Discussions were held with some of Troy's Master Gardeners to measure the level of interest in beautifying the two round-a-bouts on the west side of Hwy 61 at S. Lincoln Dr. I will get back to you on that. At the same time, I hope you all have noticed the new "Welcome to Troy" monument on Hwy 61 at the S. Lincoln Dr. exit. The entire project was funded by donations from the following local

businesses: Toyota/Bodine, Peoples Bank and Trust, Bank of Old Monroe, Mercy Hospital Lincoln, Black and Assoc., K Flynn Ins., All County Title, Jesse Granneman L.L.C., Tec Parr – Surveyor and LanDesign.

We are still having trouble securing all the necessary easements and right-of-way documents along Cherry St. from Main St. to Lincoln Dr., which has delayed the start of that project. We have decided that we need to make some temporary repairs to the roughest spots, so you will see city crews doing that work in the not too distant future. It is not the plan we originally had in mind, but I decided we needed to do something in the interim. Some of you will be glad to see this work being done and others of you will complain that we are wasting money. Ultimately, it is my decision to make and I will take whatever heat comes my way.

Finally, I hope the weather continues to warm up so that we can all start to enjoy being outside. Be careful out there, be kind to one another and God bless you all.