

I can't believe that another month has gone by already. Pretty soon it will be spring and it doesn't seem as though we have had any winter. Not that I miss winter, because I don't.

Mr. Brian Sinclair has resigned his seat on the Board of Adjustment so that he could be appointed to an open seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Park Board. I would like to thank Mr. Sinclair for his devotion to the City by volunteering to serve by filling this open seat on a very important Commission. The good Lord loves a volunteer!!

In the Troy Police Department, we recently had two officers submit their resignations so the arduous process of selecting new officers has begun. Each candidate that gets through the initial review will go through several layers of testing from physical to mental to weapons. We have been using this new process for several years now and the results have been very good. It limits favoritism and nepotism almost completely. Once the final two candidates are chosen, they will be brought to the board for the final approval. In the meantime, since the two openings on the force were on the night shift, some restructuring has taken place in order to cover all of the shifts.

There were two other traffic related topics from the Police Dept. One - recently a pedestrian was hit by a car on Cherry Blossom Way as he crossed in the cross walk on his way to work at Toyota/Bodine Aluminum. Two - just last week another pedestrian was almost hit in the crosswalk when one car stopped to let him cross and another car passed the stopped car in the center lane and almost hit the walker. The Police are asking everyone to slow down, the speed limit is 30 MPH, and be sure to stop for pedestrians. Extra patrols have been assigned and tickets will be written for any driver that does not obey the traffic laws and there will be no tolerance.

The second item is Hwy 61. Most of you know of the three family members that were killed on Hwy 61 near North Point Prairie Rd some weeks ago. In the aftermath of that tragedy, part of the short term solution has been to step up patrols by the Highway Patrol, County Sheriff's Department and the municipal Police Departments from Cuivre River all the way to Interstate 70. Again, a no tolerance policy is in force in an effort to improve safety in that area. The longer term goal will be to put up a barrier from Wentzville to the Cuivre River and try to make some improvements at all of the at grade crossings. I will keep you posted on the progress.

Public works spread 300 tons of salt on the street so far this year in an effort to keep the streets clear of snow. I am hoping that winter continues like it has so that we don't have to use anymore before spring. We have had several water main breaks, all of them minor, in the older section of town. At this time of year, the ground shifts with temperature changes and the older pipe tends to crack and/or break. Other than that, the crews have been working to fill potholes temporarily until the weather is warm enough that more permanent repairs can be made.

Sales tax deposits for February of 2016 were .2% less than the same period last year. The 1% Local Sales Tax was .45% lower, the ½% transportation tax was .51% higher and the ½% Capital Improvement Tax was .45% lower than the February of 2015. For the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, our sales tax receipts are still up by 5.14% as compared to the same period in FY 2015.

The City has once again contracted with Midwest Pool Management to supply life guards for the Aquatic Center this summer and we are working with them on scheduling additional swim lessons and fitness activities. There was a meeting with the president of Jr. Trojan Football to discuss spring flag football, adult flag football, and tackle football scheduling and field use. Construction has begun on the Avery

Park playground. We will start by removing all of the mulch and fill material in order to get down to a flat base. From there we will pour a four foot wide sidewalk around the existing playground and fill the interior with pour in place rubber safety surfacing. Rubber installation is tentatively scheduled for the first week of April. The Parks Department workers have been working on clearing brush, painting and staining restrooms and pavilions as well as general maintenance on equipment in preparation for spring. Finally, Carol House Quick Fix Pet Clinic will have a second pet pick up day on March 24th and will be returning animals on March 25th. The last event was a huge success and they hope to have similar numbers.

Spurred by a simple query, the City discovered its ability to offer citizens to pay, check balances, and graph consumption usage of their utility accounts through use of a mobile app as simple as scanning a QR Code and setting up an account with a phone or tablet. This information was placed on Facebook, the City website, and February's utility bills to alert citizens of this new additional way to access their accounts.

Survey work on the Cherry St. reconstruction project has been completed. The next step is for the engineering firm to work on the title work for any easements that will be needed on construction. This process could be a little slower because there are 63 different pieces of property along either side of Cherry St. After some core drilling of the existing pavement, a preliminary design plan will be drawn for the City's initial review, then we will have a public meeting to get citizen input on the plan. This public meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week of June. We will notify the public and property owners when the meeting will take place.

Finally, on the April ballot the City will have two issues for the voters to decide, in addition to the alderman races. One has to do with the renewal of the sales tax on cars, boats, trailers, campers etc. that are purchased out of state. The revenue from this tax is in the neighborhood of approximately \$65,000 to \$70,000 per year and would be sorely missed if this initiative vote fails. This tax effects maybe 1 -2% of people that purchase these types of equipment.

The second issue is an \$18.9 million bond issue. If this passes the city would borrow the money from the state revolving fund at a lower interest rate than if we had to go out on the open market, thereby saving the citizens of Troy as much as \$187,000 per year or \$3.74 million over the life of a twenty year loan. These numbers are based on today's interest rates. This money would be used to dismantle the old Hwy 47 sewer plant and build the infrastructure needed to divert all of the City's sewage flow to the southeast sewer plant. That plant would have to be upgraded to meet the new EPA/DNR regulations and increase the capacity of the plant to 4.5 million gallons per day. These improvements have to be done in order to satisfy the EPA and DNR and the City has no recourse but to make the improvements. The money that would be borrowed would be paid back out of capital improvement tax funds and user fees. Unfortunately the current user fees would have to be adjusted to meet this need. The good news is that we would only have to pay on the amount of the funds that are actually used so if we don't use the entire \$18.9 million we would only pay on what we borrow. If the bond issue should fail, the city would still have to do the project but with more expensive money that would be borrowed from the private market and would require the user fees to be increased even more.

So in summary, the City must make these improvements to the sewer plants. If the bond issue passes we would borrow the money from a less expensive source, the state revolving fund, thereby keeping the user fees as low as possible or borrow the money from the private sector at a higher interest rate and we would have to raise user fees even higher to pay the money back. If you have any questions please

contact me, your Alderman, or City Hall to have them answered so that you can make an informed vote.

That is it for this month. Be kind to one another, be safe out there and I will talk to you again next month. God Bless you all!!