

City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

February 12, 2016, Edition No. 210

WEEKLY UPDATE:

- Budget: The next budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th at 5:30PM in the Lower Level Conference Room. This is a short meeting to set the public hearing for the budget. The public hearing is scheduled for March 3rd.
- GMCCI: The GMCCI Annual Meeting and Recognition Night is Thursday, March 31st at the Geneva Golf and Country Club. Please let Fran know as soon as possible if you plan to attend.
- LIFTS: The City of Muscatine is pleased to announce that on February 9th, the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) officially awarded a \$100,000 Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (LIFTS) Grant to the City. The City announced in January that they were one of the six out of 25 total LIFTS Grant application projects that was recommended by IDOT to be funded. The City will receive, from IDOT, its award letter later this week along with a LIFTS Grant Agreement for approval by the City Council at one of its next meetings. The LIFTS Grant is an 80/20 match grant, meaning the grant will provide \$80,000 in funding which will be paired with \$20,000 from private sources, totaling \$100,000. The funds will be used for a feasibility study to support the establishment of a multi-modal container terminal port facility on the Mississippi River in Muscatine. The port would allow for the sending, receiving and trans-loading of intermodal container freight and smaller bulk items utilizing the river, highway, warehousing or rail.
- Chickens: We have reviewed and commented on the draft program provided by Jay Brady. That draft is in Mr. Brady's hands and we hope to bring the proposal forward for council consideration at an upcoming in-depth session.
- Riverfront: In reference to the agreement between the City of Muscatine and SmithgroupJJR for the Riverfront Master Plan (October 2015), Mr. Hill has recommended voiding the agreement for several reasons: The key individual with SmithgroupJJR is no longer employed by this firm, since October there has been no movement by SmithgroupJJR to implement the scope of services detailed in the agreement, we have not been notified by SmithgroupJJR of the specific personnel change nor provided and updated schedule of work for the Riverfront Master Plan. Mr. Hill has contacted SmithgroupJJR to notify them of our desire to void the agreement and move forward with a different firm. We plan to send them a letter informing them of the decision and bring forward a new agreement. We are following up with SEH Inc. as this is where the key individual landed. It is worth noting that our design firm for the Mississippi Drive Corridor Project (Bolton-Menk) has collaborated with SEH previously on other projects. We believe this is an benefit for the City, Bolton-Menk, and SEH.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Iowa League Training:

Webinar: Just a quick invitation to check out the League's 2016 Webinar Series, which begins next week on February 16 with the release of Understanding Iowa's Property Tax System. This webinar will provide a full rundown of the property tax system, including a comprehensive look at the new Multi-Residential property class. We finally have valuation data for Multi-Residential property, which we will analyze in the webinar. The series will also include the following webinars throughout the year:

- Assessing and Replacing Outdated Utility Infrastructure | March 15
- Placemaking: Building Your Community Identity | May 17
- Open Meetings and Open Records Laws and Best Practices | August 16
- Human Resources Management for Cities | October 18

Additional information and online registration is available on the League website. Each webinar will be pre-recorded and posted to our website on the listed release date. Registrants will be able to access the webinars after logging into the League website and may view the webinars as often as they like.

Municipal Leadership Academy: Part Three of the Municipal Leadership Academy is coming to a location near you. This session is designed for those looking for more in-depth information on the challenges facing cities. Attendees will hear some of the hottest topics in city government, network with other city officials, share a meal and discuss common concerns.

MLA Part Three will be presented at the following locations:

4 - 8 p.m., Thursday, March 31, 2016 - Cherokee
Western Iowa Tech Community College (200 Victory Drive)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 2, 2016 - Waterloo
Waterloo Center for the Arts (225 Commercial Street)

4 - 8 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2016 - Griswold
Griswold Community Building (603 2nd Street)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 9, 2016 - Fairfield
Best Western Fairfield Inn (2200 West Burlington Avenue)

4 - 8 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2016 - Mason City
Mason City Country Club (3331 19th Street SW)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 16, 2016 - Des Moines
Richard A. Clark Municipal Service Center (1551 East Martin Luther King Junior Parkway)

MLA Part Three will build on the information introduced in the first two sessions (although attendance at earlier MLA sessions not required). The program will

feature a presentation on community betterment, which will include a discussion and examples of how city officials can improve their cities through nuisance abatement. A presentation on strategic planning and goal setting will allow city leaders to look into the future to better anticipate issues facing their community. The final presentation will discuss the city's role in economic development with an overview of the tools used by cities to retain and attract businesses.

Registration for MLA Part Three is \$75 for city officials from League Member Cities. For more information and registration: [https://www.iowaleague.org/MLA2015/
Pages/default.aspx](https://www.iowaleague.org/MLA2015/Pages/default.aspx)