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City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

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Report Overview

1. CVB
2. Riverfront
3. Doyle
4. FD Staffing
5. PD Staffing
6. ATE
7. Safe Routes
8. Duncan park
9. ESI
10. Hershey
11. Bike Racks
12. Speed Signs
13. Meetings

Report

1. CVB: The City of Muscatine and Plamor Lanes will be hosting the 2013 Iowa Women's State Bowling Championship. City and Chamber staff met with Plamor Lanes prior to their bid for the tournament and offered our support. Local businesses chipped in as well. Plamor has an opportunity to bring the Men's tournament to Muscatine in 2014. In preparation for next FY's budget we may want to consider using a portion of CVB funds to assist similar activities in their bidding process. This tournament is estimated to bring in \$1M to area business and \$2M for the men's tournament.
2. Riverfront: 20 feet is current estimate. Riverfront building will be closed to the public effective 4/14. Next Tuesday we will be installing the flood gates on Mississippi Drive. We continue to monitor the river.
3. Doyle: This legal matter should be back to the City Council for action in late April or May following our March mediation.
4. FD Staffing: The Fire Department is going to conduct a staffing trial. Per Chief Ewers: The Muscatine Fire Department is requesting a temporary restructuring of positions to accomplish some major projects and necessary administrative functions. The plan is to move a current Fire Captain working a 56-hour work week on a shift to a day position working a 40 hour work week. Due to the construction of a new fire station, City of Muscatine ISO Review, training, permit required confined space program, and creating an inspection program with new scheduling for the year in order to obtain the suggested revenue from fire inspection fees, and setting up an invoicing system for the new fee schedule for all new fire department fees it is recommended that the timing for additional daytime assistance is much needed in the fire department. It is suggested to utilize current personnel staffing, but to reallocate the positions for effectiveness and to show the need with real results and accomplishments from a 40-hour administrative position in the department. I plan on

"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain

implementing this in May when I anticipate one injured fire fighter to return to work and another to be retired after his April 21st pension board review. This will get our staffing levels on shifts back to normal. I would also temporarily backfill the Captain position with a Lieutenant and backfill that Lieutenant with a fire fighter. Both of these would be temporary acting positions, which is similar to what occurs during promotional periods to fill vacancies.

I don't anticipate the cost of this 6-month trial to be significant due to the fact that the movement of a Captain to 40 hours would eliminate holiday pay and the increase for acting pay for the temporary positions of a Captain and Lieutenant would be a wash. We would have a slight increase in overtime cost due to one shift being short one person working a 56-hour schedule, but this will be closely tracked and reported. We currently have an uneven number of personnel on shifts so this will not be a new issue. We also anticipate an unexpected cost savings since the fire fighter retiring, or going out on disability, is currently paid step 8 and we'll be replacing him with a step 1 fire fighter. This cost savings will offset the minor overtime cost from one shift being short one person during this six-month trial.

5. PD: Chief Talkington recently attended the Southern Police Institute Chief Executive Leadership program with the University of Louisville.
6. ATE: April 8, 2011 –The EB and WB cameras at Cedar & Houser will transition from their 30 day warning period to real citations this Sunday April 10. The three other intersections (4 approaches) remain in their individual warning periods, which will expire next weekend allowing them to also enter real citations. Construction of the 5th and final intersection at Park & Washington is scheduled to commence April 12.
7. Safe Routes to School: The City and School will be hosting a Safe Routes to School meeting on May 4th at the High School. More information will follow. This initial meeting and subsequent fact finding tasks will allow the City to apply for a grant of up to \$100,000. This could potentially be used for sidewalk improvements. This is a 100% grant – no local match.
8. Duncan Park: We are exploring the potential to use Duncan Park as temporary event over flow parking for 2-3 soccer tournaments per year. This would involve 1-2 curb cuts and signage.
9. ESI: At present, ESI has a balance of \$474,321.29. We received a payment in April, but the payments over the past few months have been erratic not forthcoming and always require reminder phone calls. We continue to pursue this issue.
10. Hershey: This week Langman has two crews on Main Street, and another on Hershey Avenue. The one on Hershey is coring out driveways on the north side of the street. Heuer is finishing up sidewalk and driveway concrete work on the south side of the street. Heuer poured the concrete "cap" over the trench last week, from Hershey to West Third Street. Langman is about ready to tackle the underdrain system on 8th Street. BMW has almost finished sidewalk and driveway work east of Green Street. They have a small piece of sidewalk by a Guy and a Grill, and a stretch of sidewalk/driveway at 1045 Hershey (corner of Green and Hershey).
11. Bike Racks: The new bike racks ordered by the bike club are in and should be installed in the CBD in the next couple weeks. Keep your eyes open!

12. Speed Signs: We have received written confirmation from DOT to relocate the solar radar speed signs from Franklin School to Highway 22 trail crossing.
13. Meetings: Chamber Board meeting and retreat, Temp Associates Breakfast and speaker, ERC Breakfast, Muscatine Foods (4/20). This is not exhaustive, but merely a sample of "outside" meetings.