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City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

May 13, 2011, Edition No. 5

Report Overview

1. Hershey Reconstruction:
2. Hershey II
3. Meetings: MHS 12th Grad Government Class
4. Police
5. Letter to Editor
6. In-Depth Sessions

Report

1. Hershey Reconstruction: Denny Kistenmacher - Sulzberger closed Hershey to through traffic last Thursday. They have begun clearing trees next to the Mulford Church property. They have also hauled in some fill material to begin filling in the area next to the church. Sulzberger reported to me they will not be affecting the soccer field property for a while. They are going to leave it intact as long as they can. The concrete patching subcontractor is ready to start, but we need a certified person in place to do the necessary testing before they can begin. That plan is being worked on.
2. Hershey II: Denny Kistenmacher - Langman has two crews working again this week. The first crew is getting close to Green Street with the storm sewer on West 3rd Street. The sanitary sewer is completed all the way to Green. Langman is aware they cannot cross Green Street until paving is completed on Main and West Eighth. That is because we cannot close Green Street and Main Street at the same time. We will be having a progress meeting on Wednesday, at which Ilowa will be present, and we will try to determine when they can be here to start overlaying Main and West Eighth Streets. Langman's second crew is working on West Eighth Street to get the subgrade ready for the concrete base. The concrete base, which must be poured before the asphalt overlay is applied, should be done this week. At the latest it will be finished by early next week, depending on weather. Heuer is working on Main and West Eighth to get ready for the concrete to be poured this week. They poured curb last week on West Eighth; they have sidewalk, subdrain lateral trenches, and areas where the broken up concrete had to be removed to get ready for concrete. French Landscaping placed sod on Hershey Avenue last week. They have a small amount yet to place. Since laying the sod, they have also been watering it every day. I will be preparing a notice to have the property owners pick up watering after the 2 weeks that French is required to water the sod. There was a problem this morning with a sewer backing up into a house. Langman dug it up, found the problem, and repaired it. There had been a short piece of a service connection damaged causing the back-up.
3. Meetings: 2 High School 12th Grade Government Classes, Muscatine Business Partnership, Trinity Business After Hours, Miss Drive Corridor Study, Mike Ferguson regarding the National Citizen Survey
4. Police: On May 10th we had an officer in an accident, officer was at fault, squad car was totaled, Officer was cited for the accident
5. Letter to the Editor: I do not usually submit responses to newspaper editorials, but I am concerned that the facts be set straight in regards to the property tax

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

legislation. The following is being submitted to the Journal. Tried to keep it short and clear. Info: Editorials miss the point of the The Journal's May 4th article "A tax cut for them could mean a tax hike for you". The article simply describes the effects of Governor Branstad's property tax proposal (HF 691 and SF 522) and how it will cost the City of Muscatine over \$7.1M in revenue over a five-year period and could potentially cost the City funds equivalent to the cost of 15 firefighters or 15 police officers. Actual reductions in City services would be determined by the City Council. This state legislation will cause a shift in local property taxes to residential property and a city tax levy increase of over 20% to maintain current services. The City has been working diligently to "do more with less" as evidenced by a 2012-13 budget without a levy increase even with ever increasing public demands for more and better service.

6. In-Depth Sessions: Tentative sessions are as follows:
6/9: Youth Council (Dawnese), Clearview Mobile Home Park/ Sewer - Gravity v. Forced Main, 61/38; 7/14: Annexation (Tentative), Comp Plan (Plan and Process) or August; 8/11: Finance; 11/10: Transit – Magic Dispatch Software