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City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

September 30, 2011, Edition No. 21

Report:

1. Soccer/Hershey: The replacement of the fencing on Hershey Avenue along the Soccer Complex is going to cost approximately \$9,500. This will allow for an additional foot of concrete sidewalk for placement of the fence. This will improve maintenance and save costs/time going forward.
2. Riders Club of Muscatine: A new, local volunteer group wishes to provide car rides to the elderly and those in need. The service charges both a membership fee and a per ride fee. The riders Club wishes to be exempt from our taxi fees and will present at the next in-depth session their request for a modification to the City's ordinance.
3. Open Records Request: The attorney for the homeowners opposed to annexation has delivered an open records request for emails and documents associated with annexation. We are in the process of complying. I plan to bring the topic of annexation up at the goal setting session to see where this council priority stacks up against other priorities (and use of staff time).
4. Property Taxes (Newspaper): Not sure what caused this latest round of the property tax "battle", but I did speak with Rep. Lofgren and he asked me to call Rep. Kaufmann. More to come...
5. Fire Station: We have an issued with multiple concrete (pre-cast) panels at the fire station. There are multiple cracks showing up and the vendor has not been able to correct or fix these cracks in a fashion that will meet our specs. We have asked that these panels be replaced. This will cause a delay in the opening of the facility. We are awaiting word from the contractor as to our request for replacement and the timing of the replacement.
6. Commercial Development: Please see me regarding two potential commercial developments when your schedule permits.
7. Conferences: Both ICMA and the Iowa League conferences were well attended and offered several good sessions. The City's website presentation/forum with the Iowa League and two additional member cities was well received. One particularly good session at ICMA was conducted by Rebecca Ryan (author of Live First, Work Second). I would encourage you to check out her website as your time permits. Several staff members and I will be participating in sustainability and lean sessions in October. HNI staff will be attending our Monday Staff meeting to provide an introduction to Lean Principles and examples of how it has benefited HNI.
8. Editorial Board: The Muscatine Journal editorial board has asked that we meet with them next Tuesday to discuss the NCS.
9. Public Safety Open House: Public Safety Open House, Sunday, October 2nd, 12:00-3:00
10. City Hall: The City received a \$21,500 grant for the City Hall boiler as part of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant through the Office of Energy Conservation.
11. Armory Dedication: Hope you can attend the New National Guard Army open house on 10/19 at 10am.
12. Meetings: MCC open house, Lutheran Homes, ICMA, Iowa League, United Way, Golf Course Discussion,

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

13. ISO: The Fire Department received word that our ISO rating will go from a 4 to a 3 (Good thing). The Fire Department is working to get an article in the paper reviewing this new rating. Residents and Business should see a saving in insurance rates.
14. Police/Fire Statistics: Nationally the crime of Arson has less than a 10% conviction rate, the City's is better than 80%. Nationally 50% of all fires are listed as undetermined, the City concludes more than 90%. This is a direct result of team work.