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City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

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REPORT:

1. **Goal Sessions:** City Staff will be meeting on September 10th to review the City's Vision/Mission/Goals. Let's plan to hold a City Council work session on **Thursday, October 25th from 5:15 to 8:30 pm?**
2. CSO: City Staff and Stanley Consultants have drafted a letter to the EPA requesting an extension of the City's Consent Order from 2024 to 2028 per the City's financial plan. The letter is slated to be mailed out today.
3. Fire Department: Fruitland Fire Department agreed to expand the Auto Aid for structure fires for a trial period. This will begin September 3rd through June 30th. We don't need to change our 28E Auto Aid agreement since it didn't specify boundaries. This will give us an opportunity to assess whether this will work and be a benefit to both communities. This means that Fruitland Fire will get dispatched at the same time as Muscatine for any structure fires in the city limits and they will send one fire engine with 2-4 members. Muscatine will do the same for Fruitland for their territory/coverage area. According to run numbers they will come to Muscatine more than we will respond to Fruitland. The Department sees this as a win-win for both departments. This auto aid does not apply to medical calls, auto accidents, or automatic fire alarms. Each City is responsible for their own insurance – no different than at present.
4. Iowa League: Per the Iowa League of Cities President – In the last legislative session, the debate over commercial property tax reform reached a critical point, and we came very close to seeing a bill pass. In light of last year's intensity over this issue the League is forming a property tax working group. The group will be comprised of select League members who have expressed a keen awareness and strong interest in the issue. This select group will be tasked with crafting a legislative proposal on property tax reform that the League will promote during the next session. As a part of this group, you will be asked to attend at least two meetings this Fall, the first in early September at the League offices (317 6th Ave, Suite 800 in Des Moines) and another in November. We believe that your perspective and expertise would be extremely valuable. Thank you, Kris Gulick, League of Cities President, Reynold Peterson, League of Cities President-Elect. I have been asked to serve on this committee. I am hopeful that after this last session and much increased cooperation with state legislators, that a compromise solution can be found that benefits business, lessens the impact on residents, and puts cities in a better position. I will keep the City Council informed as to the progress of this committee.
5. Bruner Field: The School District received a grant from the HNI Foundation to extend the height of the Bruner Field (North) fence to help prevent fly-ball damage and to replace/improve the in-field. There is no cost for the City.

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

The School District will be meeting the match with the fence component.

6. Sidewalks: This fall DPW will be working its way through the downtown (Miss Drive through 3rd Street) to make minor repairs (patches, uneven pavement). P&R is putting together a plan to address the planting sites in the same areas. This may mean removal (pavement), small plantings (low maintenance) or tree replacement (small/ROW appropriate trees/flowering/no fruit). We will inform the downtown folks of our plans once the "master plan" is complete. Neither program is expected to cost more than \$2-4,000.
7. Ripley: We now have agreement on all of the required easements for the Mad Creek Sewer project (Ripley's). These will be placed on the next agenda for action – including payment for the two larger easements (\$10,000, \$30,000). One easement holder has requested the ability to continue hunting. We can address this in the forthcoming City Code update. Hunting would need to be in compliance with state laws - not less than 50 contiguous acres and within 50 yards of a building or property line.
8. City Administrator: Reminder – I will be sending out evaluation forms in September in prep for a Closed Session prior to one of our October City Council meetings.