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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 5/18/2023

GREETINGS:

We've had a very productive and exciting week. We are meeting with local, state, and federal leaders to build relationships to assist us with economic development, infrastructure repairs, financial resources, grants, and donations.

WE WELCOME AND NEED YOUR INPUT. THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

WHAT'S BEEN DONE:

- As an update on the status of the financial statements: They have been sent to SIKICH LLC. administration for formatting, and then they will move on to their Quality Control. Depending on the timing of their review and answering any questions they may have, we will receive a draft to review once this process is complete.
- Martin Ghafoori, Managing Director, for Stifel Nicolaus, and I met for breakfast to discuss the city's financial health and what's needed to regain our bond rating and plan for future economic opportunities, infrastructure repairs, and capital improvements.
- Patrick Barrett, Planning and Zoning Chairman, and I met with County Executive Dr. Sam Page to discuss future economic development possibilities and needs.
- Clayton Klien, City Engineer, and I met to discuss the city's street lighting, street repair, and traffic enforcement project. Ameren has agreed to work with us!
- St. Louis County Housing Authority has agreed to collaborate with the city on enforcing our property violations.
- Jeff Ross, Public Works Department Director, and his team, Jeff Sullivan and Mark Sanders, and I attended Highland Elementary Career Day! Pictures and videos are posted on Nextdoor and the city's Facebook page.
- Chief Jeremy Ihler, Mayor Warren Willis, Major Tim Sanders, Sergeant Dennis Oglesby, Officer Ron Shreves and I attended the 27th Police Memorial Breakfast.
- Chief Keith Goldstein gave me a tour of the "New Firehouse." It's scheduled to be completed in November. Pictures and videos are on Nextdoor and the city's Facebook page.
- State Representative Marlene Terry and I met to discuss possible future economic development, social service programs, and programs for families, children, youth, and seniors.
- I attended the Municipal Leagues Metro East Regional Meeting.

- A part-time Assistant Finance Director was hired. This will assist with internal financial controls!
- A full-time Administrative Assistant for the Building Department was hired.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

- Hire a City Administrator.
- Hire a full-time Maintenance person.
- Hire a full-time Code Enforcer.
- Hire a full-time Building Inspector.

- Appoint Citizens to serve on Boards and Commissions.

Sec 2-282 [Ord. No. 1493 , § 1, 9-5-1991]

The members of the commission established by this article shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen. They shall serve terms of office concurrent with the mayor and until their successors are duly appointed and qualified.

- a. (6) Youth Commission
 - b. (5) Human Relations Commission
 - c. (5) Public Safety Commission
 - d. (5) Citizen Advisory Commission (still needs to be established).
 - e. (5) Economic Development Commission (still needs to be established).
 - f. (5) Human Resource Commission (still needs to be established).
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- We will apply to The Department of Transportation for their Safe Streets and Roads Grant.
 - We will apply for the Department of Economic Development CBDG Grant.
 - We will apply for the Missouri Federal Strategic Planning Program Grant

HEALTH:

- Vents in the Police Department need to be cleaned and sanitized.
- Vents in City Hall need to be cleaned and sanitized.
- The carpet in the Police Department needs to be steam cleaned.
- The carpet in City Hall needs to be steam cleaned.

SECURITY:

- A new security door system needs to be installed on the front and side doors in City Hall.
- A new security door system needs to be installed on the back doors of the Police Station.
- New lighting and bulbs must be replaced in front of the Recreation Center.
- New lighting must be installed, and bulbs changed in front of City Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- I'll teach a **FREE** 6-week grant writing class from Tuesday, June 20th to Tuesday, August 1st. Classes will be held virtually and in person at the Rec. Center. Call City Hall at 314-867-0076 to register.
- The Housing Resource and Finance Summit will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. at the Rec. Center. Information will be posted on Nextdoor, the city website, and the Facebook page.