

Administrator's Report 10/11/21

Paint the Town Red was a big success! Thanks to all who helped out. The crowd was very large and the Fireworks were a great way to end a great night!

The **parking lot at the Route 66 Events center** turned into a job much larger than anticipated when crews went to repair what first looked to be a small sink in the paving. As they started the repair it became quickly obvious that the basement to the old building that once sat there was experiencing extreme settling. The old bricks that had been buried were shifting and needed to be removed. We are fortunate to have experienced heavy equipment operators who handled the job in record fashion.



Waste Water and Public Works crews have been working to make some long needed repairs to the **Robin Ridge lift station** off of North Red Bird. We have fought water drainage issues there for years. The access was changed last year to keep city crews from having to go through a private drive and gate to get to it. Now we have concreted in the drive and preparing to pave the entrance that will channel the water and stop the erosion.

Badges and Burgers will be held this year on Thursday, October 21st at the Webb City Fire Department. We will be doing it this year as a drive thru and delivery only. There will be some raffle items and more details should be coming in the next week.

Preparations are complete and paving will start on Broadway Friday and we hope to be done by Wednesday of next week. It will be uncomfortable for a few days.

The main focus for the last two weeks has been the **FY 21/22 Budget**. Staff have submitted their requests and we have reviewed the projected revenues for each department. With the added investment in our personnel this last year we did make a couple cuts to some of the requests but we still have a very strong financial position as we enter next fiscal year. Again we focused our funds on continuing to make improvements on our infrastructure. Street improvements along with water and waste water projects take up the bulk of our operation funds in the departments outside of the general fund.

We have been self-insured going on our 9th year. During that time we have only experienced one increase in costs and that amounted to about a 2% increase. This past year we have had some increase in costs and **staff felt it was time to make a considerable increase in the insurance fund**. An increase of about 8% (\$500) per employee was included in this years proposed budget.

I will be out of town for this meeting but I will have my phone with me so please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions regarding the proposed budget.

Missouri DNR has approved our engineering grant that we had applied for last year regarding the **storm water retention project located south of 171 at Powell Drive**. Staff will be working with Olsson Engineering as we move this project forward.

City staff participated in a Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization Meeting and was pleased to see the **Madison MacArthur intersection moved to the #4 priority for the Joplin Region** and then even more important the importance of **Interstate status for MO 249 Highway** was recognized as the top priority by the group. This is of major importance to the city of Webb City as we continue to grow and wish to improve our competitiveness within the industrial and retail markets. It may not sound like much but the difference between a state highway and an Interstate is huge when recruiting businesses. And it will increase the safety of our regions travelers.

Webb City Chamber will host the **Ribbon Cutting for the new Sleep Inn** at the hotel on November 12th at 7:30 am. Other projects within the Centennial Park and other locations within the city are all moving rapidly. The Hotel is in need of the new restaurant next to them and staff have spent long hours working to move that along. It is very likely we will see some plans soon. City staff have also assisted a couple other developers with some Madison access issues recently and we hope to have the building plans submitted for those projects soon.

Parks Department has been busy already working on our yearly holiday light display in King Jack Park. Polar Bear Express will be returning this year and over 4400 tickets have been printed. Tickets will go on sale November 6th here at City Hall.

The annual Downtown Holiday Merry Market will be held Friday and Saturday November 12th and 13th, tickets will go on sale October 22nd on the chamber website.