



City of Blue Earth

To: City Council

Date: 5/1/17

Agenda Heading: City Administrator's Report

“Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May.”

-William Shakespeare

- **SRE Airport Bids.** The bid letting for the SRE building was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at Blue Earth City Hall. Three bids were received and read. There was a Base Bid for a 46' x 54' building and an Alternate Bid for a 46' x 49' building. Based upon the tabulation of actual unit prices, the low bidder for the Base Bid is Ankeny Builders. The actual cost to the Airport fund will be **\$20,154.14**. Based on these numbers staff recommendation is to approve this project pending confirmation of FAA funding this year.
- **Community Marketing Campaign.** Currently a joint effort is being made to help market our fine community to a wider audience and market. Representatives from the school district, HRA, EDA, hospital, BE Community Foundation, BE Light&Water, and other groups are contributing resources to make this worthwhile. Right now the group is going through the RFP process and hopes to selection a media firm in the next 3 weeks. More information will be forthcoming and if you have any questions please let me know.
- **Omnibus Bill Conference Committees Announced.** Conference committee appointments for the 10 major omnibus state budget and tax bills were announced last week. The conference committees will attempt to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate positions and then send the conference committee reports back to the House and Senate floors for final action before the bills are sent to the governor.
- **Police Nuisance Enforcement.** The Spring Sweep is nearing completion. The list of affected properties will be propagated as soon as possible. Many of these homes are repeat offenders. Interest in our enforcement meant that the local television station KEYC interviewed the Mayor last week. I thought his comments were well received. Included in your packets is a memo I have prepared detailing the how and why of enforcement. This could be useful as guidance in the face of resident questions. Please let me know if you have any questions.
- **Vacation of Property on Highland Dr.** Recently we received a complaint about items being dumped up behind Highland Dr. After ascertaining the nature of the items we removed 17, 2 – 2 ½ gallon empty ag chemical jugs. Most were herbicide; a few were pesticide all were for small grains/grass treatment. Nothing that would be used on fields around here but possibly a commercial lawn company or a wheat/small grain farmer. There were also (3) 5 gallon pails with lids that were full. Staff is recommending vacating this tree line to the adjoining land owners to eliminate the city's responsibility.

- **Abatement Order Process.** Last week, Steve Anderson, Chief Fletcher, Steve Pilcher, and I were able to enter the deteriorated property on South Nicollet. Included in your packet is information regarding what was found. The City Council has the ability and a responsibility to order the abatement of these issues in order to correct the problems that exist. After that process has been completed then the Council will have the option to pursue further action. Hopefully, the property owner will be cooperative; however I think that planning for all contingencies is prudent. Also included in the packet is info on 1030 East 6th Street. This house seems to be vacated, and I directed the public works department to secure it last week. The front door was ajar and the possibility of vagrancy seemed likely.
- **Last Four Weeks of Legislative Session.** The Minnesota Legislature heads into the home stretch of the 2017 regular legislative session. With less than a month to go before they must adjourn by midnight on Monday, May 22, the primary task will be to enact a state budget for the upcoming 2018-2019 fiscal biennium, which begins on July 1. The state budget is distributed among nine major omnibus appropriations bills and an omnibus tax bill.

At this point, it is unclear whether the Legislature will send a Bonding bill to the governor. A bonding proposal from the House has not yet been unveiled, while the Senate bonding bill awaits action on the Senate floor. With all the major omnibus bills in conference committee, the Legislature is generally considered to be ahead of schedule. However last week, Gov. Dayton sent a letter to legislative leaders outlining issues and concerns with the House and Senate omnibus budget bills and the tax bill.

One of the largest differences between the governor and legislative positions is embodied in the omnibus tax bills. The governor's 2018-2019 budget recommendations included \$113 million in additional aid and credit expenditures for programs, including local government aid (LGA), while he proposed tax reductions of nearly \$79 million. The Senate bill includes \$80 million in additional aid and credit spending and \$823 million in tax reductions, while the House bill includes \$124 million in spending on aids and credits and \$1.2 billion in tax relief.

- **Fairgrounds Restrooms.** Included in the packet is a copy of the RFP that was put out for contractors. We published in the Register, Fairmont Sentinel, and the Mankato Free Press. Due to the timing of this project, response has been muted. Typically projects of this nature are planned at least 1 year in advance. Many contractors have already booked their projects for the season. It seems unlikely that the project will be complete before the hoped for date in early July. Therefore the PWD and I have been evaluating alternative options. We have contacted the Fairboard about renting one of the additional buildings to help provide coverage. Another option is to utilize temporary bathrooms for the tournament weekend. The cost of these varies, but it may be one option to provide greater service during this tournament. It would also provide the time needed to complete a more expansive project in the prudent fashion that is required. Please let me know if you've got any questions.
- **Updated Street Plan.** Included in the Packet is an updated 10 year street reconstruction plan. This includes a number of projects and revises the plan to move the Sailor Street redevelopment forward by 2 years. This was requested by a number of residents.

Meetings and Events Attended

April 1 American Legion Chicken Fry
April 2 Senior Center Spring Fling Salad Luncheon
April 3 Regular Worksession – Public Works Garage
Regular City Council
April 4 Kiwanis
First Bank Reception
April 5 FCDC
Grand Opening Farm Bureau
City Engineer
City Attorney
April 7 HRA - Property Closing
April 10 HRA
American Legion
April 11 Eide Bailley - Audit
Malwitz Chiropractic- Grand Opening
FCDC
Senior Center Board
April 12 Safety and Loss Control – LMC – Rochester, MN
April 13 BE EDA
Eide Bailley - Audit
Slide Fundraising Committee
Pool pass funding Committee
Inspection of Property – HRA acquisition
Frandle Closing
Double B closing
April 17 Regular Worksession
Regular City Council
April 18 Midwest IT
Staff Safety Training
Kiwanis
Airport Bid Opening
April 19 FCDC
City Attorney
City Engineer
Active Living Coalition
Street Committee
April 20 Community Marketing Campaign – RFP with Otto Media
Executed search warrant on 428 South Nicollet/ in support of abatement process
April 21 Senior Center Potluck
April 22 3 Sisters Auction

Blue Earth Community Foundation Gala
Fireman's Dance
April 23 Historical Society Omelet Breakfast
April 24 Union Discussion regarding Liquor Store Hours
April 25 Kiwanis
Eagles Club
April 26 City Attorney
Wine Walk Coordination Meeting
April 27 Meeting with PW Garage Architect
April 28 Airport Contract Review with Steier's
April 29 City Wide Garage Sales
May 1 Board of Review
Regular Worksession – Public Works Garage
Regular City Council