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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 06/15/2023

GREETINGS:

We spent a tremendous amount of time in the community last week. Many negative things challenge us, and we need to visualize what we need to do to correct them and build relationships that will be beneficial in getting the materials and funds we need to fix them!

WE WELCOME AND NEED YOUR INPUT!

- **I'll be spending Mondays and Fridays out in the community! If you have an issue you want to discuss or have an idea you want to share, call city hall in advance at 314-867-0076, and we'll come by and visit! You can also make an appointment to see me!**
- **ON JUNE 19, 2025, our city turns 75 years old. We want to start planning for this momentous occasion. If you want to join the planning committee, call City Hall at 314-867-0076. Planning meetings will begin on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.**

WHAT'S BEEN DONE:

- City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall, Finance Director Lori Lenz, and I met with Alonzo Williams, VP, Business Development Officer, Andrew Lococo, Financial Center Manager, Karin Andrade, VP Interim Treasury Management Officer for St. Louis Market, and NaKischa Joseph, Residential Community Mortgage Officer for Simmons Bank to discuss the city's financial stability, needs, and community engagement opportunities.
- Director of Public Works, Jeff Ross, City Code Enforcer Felicia Bishop, and Major Warren Williss, and I spent six hours in the community talking with citizens about code violations and assessing the community's needs.
- Chief Jeremy Ihler, Director Jeff Ross, and I met with the National League of Cities Contractors, Fred Smith and Amrit Mehra to discuss our application to The USA Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads Grant. We will be applying for funds to assist us in creating a Comprehensive Public Safety Plan for the city.
- I was one of the community keynote speakers for Missouri State Representative Marlene Terry's Townhall.

- Clayton Evans, Senior Vice President, Community Affairs Lead, and Alonzo Williams, VP, Business Development Officer for Simmons Bank, and I met for lunch to discuss Simmons Bank partnering with us for the Housing Resource Summit in July.
- Chief Jeremy Ihler, Director Jeff Ross, City Engineer Clayton Klein, and I met with Samantha Williams, Community Development Executive for Ameren, to discuss their SBDI (Small Business Direct Install) Incentive Program and the city's Lighting Enhancement and Tree Trimming Project.
- I attended the Planning and Zoning Meeting.
- I attended the Riverview Gardens School District's Special Administrative Board Meeting.

HEALTH:

- All cloth furniture needs to be steamed and cleaned.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

- Hire a part-time Assistant Finance Director.

We listed the position on the city's website, Facebook page, and marquis in front of the City Hall.

- Hire a full-time Maintenance person.
- Hire a full-time Building Inspector.

- Appoint a City Administrator.

Sec 2-46 [Ord. No. 2418, 3-15-2018]

Appointment. The City Administrator shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the Board of Aldermen, and appointed to serve at the will of the Mayor and Board as hereinafter provided. The City Administrator shall, at a minimum, be a graduate of an accredited college or university and preferably hold a Bachelor's or graduate degree in public administration. The City Administrator should also possess experience in the field of municipal or public administrative and financial management.

- 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 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).
- g. (6) Planning and Zoning Commission.

- Appoint someone to serve the unexpired term in Ward #1.

Sec. 7-3 [Code 1964, § 9-8]

If a vacancy occurs in any elective office, the mayor or the person exercising the duties of the mayor shall cause a special meeting of the board of aldermen to convene where a successor to the vacant office shall be selected. The successor shall serve until the next regular election. If a vacancy occurs in any office not elected, the mayor shall appoint a suitable person to discharge the duties of such office until the first regular meeting of the board of aldermen thereafter, at which time such vacancy shall be permanently filled.

- We are applying for The Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads Grant. This allows us to receive additional funds to assist us with creating a Comprehensive Public Safety Plan for the city.
- We will apply for the Department of Economic Development CDBG Grant.

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 before 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 – 1:00 pm. at the Rec. Center. Information will be posted on Nextdoor, the city website, and the Facebook page. If you want to be part of the planning committee, call city hall at 314-867-0076.