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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 02/15/2024 – 03/05/2024

GREETINGS:

After the majority of the Board of Alderman (4) voted NOT to approve my appointment of Mr. Philip Lukens to serve as our new Police Chief out of frustration, I announced we would start the process all over again. After talking with our Police Officers and Majors, I decided to ask the majority of the Board of Alderman to join our Police Force, their colleagues, and myself by voting yes for Mr. Philip Lukens to serve as our new Chief of Police.

The Missouri State statute and the City Ordinance #1874 only require that the mayor makes the appointment with the majority of the board's approval.

Sec. 21-31 Office created; appointment. [1]

[Code 1964, § 2-33; Ord. No. 1874 §§ 1 — 2, 2-15-2001; Ord. No. 2208 § 1, 2-2-2012]

There is hereby created the office of chief of police of the city. The chief of police shall be appointed by the mayor, with the approval of a majority of the members of the board of aldermen, and shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor and board. Salary for the office of chief of police shall be established by the board of aldermen from time to time. *State law reference — Appointment of chief of police, RSMo. § 79.050*

- 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. Meetings will be held in person and via Zoom**

WHAT'S BEEN DONE:

- Directors Jeff Ross and I had a Zoom conference meeting with Hannah Milos, Midwest Urban and Community Forestry Specialist, and Jill Johnson, Midwest Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, to discuss revisions and the implementation process for our \$1,000,000 grant.
- City Clerk Semmie Ruffin-Hall and I had a Zoom meeting with Verizon representatives Chad Mendelsohn, Fouzan Lakhani, Ryan Graham, and Trifon Gouvas about a new phone system.
- Met with Parks and Recreation Staff.
- Held meetings with all Department Heads and Police Majors.

HEALTH:

- All cloth furniture needs to be steamed and cleaned.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

- Send out another RFQ for Part-Time personnel for the finance department.
- Send out another RFQ for boardroom video and audio equipment.
- Hire a Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Mayor.
- Hire a Full-Time Building Inspector.
- Appoint and Reappoint 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) Public Safety Commission
- c. (2) Planning & Zoning 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).

SECURITY:

- New key system for all doors in City Hall and the Recreation Center.
- Upgrade lights in both parking lots.
- New time keeping system for payroll.

EQUIPMENT:

- New phone system.
- New computers for City Hall and the Recreation Center..

ALL of our technology systems are antiquated and in disrepair. The phone systems are constantly inoperable! These interruptions cause delays in communication with citizens, contractors, and service providers.

What's Happening Next:

- **Starting in May, we will hold community meetings to get input from citizens concerning our \$1,000,000 grant award.**
- **Also starting in May every 2nd Wednesday from 10:00 am. -I will be having breakfast with our Seniors. This will allow them to express their needs and what they want to see happen in our city.**
- **We will schedule town hall meetings to discuss allocating the remaining ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Meeting times will be scheduled for mornings, afternoons, and evenings to accommodate ALL citizens.**
- **If you want to help, write grants for the city, you can join the grant writing class on Tuesdays. The class is 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center via Zoom. Call city hall at 314-867-0076 to register.**

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