



Windsor
Heights
the heart of it all

TO: Mayor & City Council

From: Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, City Administrator

Re: Monthly Report

Date: August 18, 2014

Below is a list of projects I have been working for the past month. Let me know if you have any questions

Street Project-Phase I of the project is officially completed with the exception of a few minor cosmetic issues that need to be resolved. Jason and I met with Greg Roth and the Public Works Committee last week and will prepare a recommendation for moving forward with phases II and III of the project. Those will be bid this winter and commencing next spring.

Bike Trail Improvements-This project is set to begin in September and will take approximately two weeks to complete. Again the project is a total reconstruction and widening of the trail from the College Street Bridget to Hickman Road. The most likely rerouting of bike traffic will occur down Hickman to 73rd and South to Forrest Street where bikers will again be able to access the trail south of the College Street Bridge. The construction route will be available on our website.

New City Hall- Last week the Public Works staff completed most of the deconstruction work at the new facility and the contractor is set to begin work within the next week. Jason and I will keep the Council apprised of any issues that may arise, but our target timeline is still an October move. Councilmember Burgess and I have been working to finalize the purchase of new office equipment and any equipment at the facility that can be reused will be.

Community Survey- Please remind residents to complete the community survey when they have time available. We are reminding residents in our newsletter again this month. As of Aug 11th there were 53 completed surveys. This is double from the previous week, but still lagging of where we need to be. I will extend the survey time an additional month through the end of September if needed. Our goal is to have 500 completed surveys.

Strategic Planning-Please return your completed goals and action items from the strategic planning session by Aug 18th. Once I have everyone's I will compile them for the first meeting in September. My hope is to have the final plan approved by the second meeting that month.

Streetscape Project-Sheena and I met with Richard Hurd and Confluence last week to discuss a needed easement for the project. Mr. Hurd was very supportive of the overall streetscape project and the proposed signage at 63rd and Hickman. He did have some concerns with the height of the tower piece, which our group will be taking back streetscape subcommittee. Again our goal is to have the design phase completed in Oct.

Design & Overlay Guidelines-Sheena, Zane Muntz and I continue working on this project. We have made some significant inroads and hope to have a rough draft of the new City wide design guidelines to the development committee for their review in early September. Upon receiving their input the plan will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and ultimately to the City Council. Zane has brought numerous examples of design guidelines other communities across the country use. This is providing a great starting point for our group and ultimately will lead to new design guidelines that will promote the type of growth our elected officials and residents are looking for.

FY 14 Audit-The auditors will be on hand the week of September 8th to conduct the City's annual financial and compliance audit. The process will take no longer than a week to complete and the audit should be finalized and ready to present in November.

TIF of Sherwood Forest Area-The Mayor and I recently began conversations with Ahlers and Cooney about the idea of including the entire Sherwood Forest area in the City's urban renewal area, thus bringing it into our TIF. This would allow for the potential development agreements, funding of infrastructure upgrades, façade improvements and many other economic development projects. Mayor Willits and I will update the Council if this idea moves forward.

63rd and Hickman-This project is now completed and we are awaiting our final grant disbursement. Once that is received the account will be closed out and staff will transfer funds from our TIF account to zero out the fund.

73rd and Hickman-Aside for approximately \$13,000 in retainage this project is completed. There are still some concerns with the condition of the sod along 73rd Street near the Quick Trip. This will be addressed and resolved before any retainage is paid out.

Accounting Clerk-Marcia Woodke began her duties full-time on August 11th. Stacie will stay on part-time through early September to aid in the transition. When you have time please stop by and say hi.

Other Meetings Attended:

- Meetings with Residents
- Staff meetings & 1:1 meetings with Department Heads
- Chamber board meeting
- Young Professionals Meeting
- CIRDWC meeting

- Meeting with Mayor and developers regarding potential projects on University
- Coffee with Council Members
- Policy and Admin Committee
- Fire Committee
- PW Committee
- Meeting with Colby regarding potential development on University Avenue
- Building Committee Meeting
- Development Committee Meeting
- City Council Meeting
- Board of Adjustment Meeting
- Presentation of Trailhub project to REAP committee
- United Way Government Sector Meeting
- KWHB Meeting

IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES - 2015 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Local Budget Issues and Decision-Making

City budgets are put under pressure to maintain or increase services and comply with increasing regulations and mandates with fewer resources. Our citizens need and expect cities to provide safe communities and quality infrastructure, in addition to other valued services. Without legislation, cities cannot have an impact on those cost-drivers outside of their control and need additional resources and the ability to make decisions at the local level.

City Finances and Property Tax Backfill: Diversify funding options for cities and continue to ensure the commercial and industrial property tax backfill.

Transportation Funding: Increase funding and resources for road and bridge infrastructure.

Pensions: Pursue systemic changes to the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI) and also make ensure fairness for IPERS through long term sustainability while controlling costs to cities.

Environmental Regulation: Provide funding for and supportive policies related to water and wastewater infrastructure development to meet demands of increased environmental regulation. Assess the need for additional resources or policies to address the impacts caused by weather and other natural events.

Economic Development and Community Growth

Cities are drivers and partners for economic development projects and provide services that make attractive communities. They need a supportive environment to continue to attract economic development and to provide the types of opportunities that make appealing places to live.

Local Economic Development: Sustain funding levels for economic development programs and preserve economic development policies that are flexible.

Community Growth: Expand resources and provide supportive policies for community development to provide for citizen-supported opportunities.

Legislative Policy Committee Meeting #2 – August 14, 2014

The meeting will begin shortly

*****Please place your phone on mute*****



Warren Woods, President-Elect
Alan Kemp, Executive Director

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Agenda

10:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

- Alan Kemp, Executive Director

10:05 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Survey Process and Results

- Erin Mullenix, Research & Fiscal Analyst

10:15 a.m. - 10:25 a.m. Small City Finance Recommendations

- Dustin Miller, Director of Government Affairs

10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. Process in Determining Priorities

- Dustin Miller, Director of Government Affairs

10:40 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Address and Finalize Each Priority

- Alan Kemp & Legislative Staff will provide drafted priority language. Committee discussion will follow on each priority.

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Next Meeting & Agenda

Erin Mullenix, Research & Fiscal Analyst

LEGISLATIVE SURVEY PROCESS AND RESULTS

Legislative Priorities Survey Process

Process

- The Legislative Priorities Survey went out in June to League membership, the Policy Committee, and the Board to identify potential priority issues for the 2015 session.
- The Committee was asked to prioritize the issues via a follow-up survey.
- Results from these surveys were presented at the June 25th Committee meeting.
- Teleconference call on August 14 to discuss draft priorities.
- League Executive Board Adoption
- Present for approval at the Annual Business Meeting at the League Annual Conference in September.

Results

- 138 respondents to the membership survey
- Results analyzed to determine priority issues
- Priority ideas listed in order of highest ranking
- The Policy Committee discussed potential priority issues, and draft priority language was drafted.



2014 Legislative Priority Survey Ranking

Below are the results of the Legislative Priorities Survey. The table at left are the results as ranked by the League Board and Policy Committee (30 responses). The table at right the most frequently noted categories from the all-membership survey.



| Ranking based upon Survey Mean |
|--|
| Property Tax & Backfill Security (including Multi-Family Reform) |
| Roads/Bridges/RUTF/Gas Tax or Alternatives |
| Tax Increment Finance (TIF) |
| Pension Systems (including MFPRSI & IPERS) |
| Water/Stormwater/Wastewater Issues |
| Alternate City Revenues |
| Home Rule |
| Economic Development |
| Abandoned Buildings/Nuisance Properties |
| Local Option Sales Tax |
| Eliminate Government Mandates |

| Most Frequent Responses (All-Members) |
|--|
| Roads/Bridges/RUTF/Gas Tax or Alternatives |
| Property Tax & Backfill Security (including Multi-Family Reform) |
| Water/Stormwater/Wastewater Issues |
| Tax Increment Finance (TIF) |
| Eliminate Government Mandates |
| Pension Systems (including MFPRSI & IPERS) |
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Dustin Miller, Director of Government Affairs

SMALL CITY FINANCE WORKGROUP

2014 Small City Finance Recommendations

- Support of additional resources for road and bridge improvements
- Update winter water main break survey for more accurate information
- Abandoned school and derelict buildings
- Protection of TIF as an economic and community development tool.
- Funding of township fire service with a focus on equipment costs
- Subject capital improvement levy to reverse referendum with disclosure of the projects being funded.
- Protect special assessments.
- Ambulance/EMS costs are difficult to fully cover, need additional tools to fund services, particularly in rural areas
- Changes to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy structure

Alan Kemp, Executive Director

POLICY COMMITTEE PROCESS

Committee Voting Process

- Committee discussion after each priority
- Vocal consensus on the individual priorities
- Formal Vote to accept the priorities as a whole
 - Formal motion – followed by a roll call vote at the end

Dustin Miller, Director of Government Affairs

LEAGUE PRIORITIES

Local Budget Issues and Decision-Making

- City budgets are put under pressure to maintain or increase services and comply with increasing regulations and mandates with fewer resources. Our citizens need and expect cities to provide safe communities and quality infrastructure, in addition to other valued services. Without legislation, cities cannot have an impact on those cost-drivers outside of their control and need additional resources and the ability to make decisions at the local level.
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- **Pensions:** Pursue systemic changes to the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI) and also make ensure fairness for IPERS through long term sustainability while controlling costs to cities.
- **Environmental Regulation:** Provide funding for and supportive policies related to water and wastewater infrastructure development to meet demands of increased environmental regulation. Assess the need for additional resources or policies to address the impacts caused by weather and other natural events.

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- Cities are drivers and partners for economic development projects and provide services that make attractive communities. They need a supportive environment to continue to attract economic development and to provide the types of opportunities that make appealing places to live.
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Vote on Priorities

Executive Board & Annual Conference

- **Executive Board**
 - Priorities taken to Executive Board for approval on Aug 28th
 - Legislative staff and Mayor Woods will be in attendance
- **Annual Conference**
 - Priorities & list of Policy Committee members in Conference bag
 - Name tag will show you are a member of Policy Committee

Annual Conference Business Meeting

- **Date and Time:** Friday, September 26, 9:15am to 10:00am
- **Location:** Council Bluff's Mid-America Center
- Priorities up for Membership Approval
- Committee members are asked to attend to support priorities and answer questions if necessary
- Committee members will be recognized at the beginning of the meeting

Next Meeting?

- **Date and Time:** Thursday, November 6, 10am – 2pm
- **Location:** League Office
- Invite key associations/individuals
- Discuss legislative strategy
 - Know more closer to session

Thank you!

