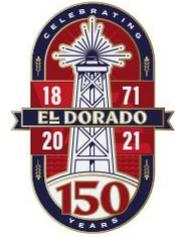


TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: October 15, 2021



Items of Note:

- The Commission Candidate forum sponsored by the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce will be held at City Hall in the Commission Chambers on October 19. The City will broadcast the event on Channel 7 to allow residents who do not use social media and who cannot attend in person to view the discussion.
- The Parks and Recreation Department plans to close restrooms in parks for the season over the next few days.
- I distributed bonus checks to employees this week. Employees were very appreciative of the support from the City Commission.
- The City received notice of an opportunity for additional airport funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The act provides \$8 billion in funds for economic assistance to eligible airports to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the “never-ending” pandemic. Most of the funds will go to primary commercial airports, although \$100 million will be distributed to non-primary commercial and general aviation airports. El Dorado’s Captain Jack Thomas Airport is eligible to receive \$32,000 for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning and sanitization, and debt service payments. Staff plans to submit an application for these funds. The funds do not require a local match.
- Be sure to tune into “Things to Know – What’s Happening in El Dorado,” a weekly brief on various happenings in El Dorado. This week’s episode may be found on the City’s Facebook page and YouTube Channel at https://youtu.be/QM_a8O-R218.

Things to Think About:

- Sales tax receipts have been performing well over the course of the last several months. As you know, the City projects breaking last year’s sales tax record by nearly 10% based on the prior twelve trailing months. Even so, supply chain challenges continue to test the economy. Consider the following:
 - The Minnesota Trucking Association estimates that the country has a shortage of about 60,000 drivers, due to longtime recruitment issues, early retirements, and COVID-canceled driving-school classes.
 - Before the pandemic, reserving a shipping container that holds roughly 35,000 books cost \$2,500. Now it costs \$25,000.
 - As of this month, the U.S. Postal Service is reducing its use of air transportation to save money. The USPS estimates that deliveries outside your local area will likely be delayed by one or two days.

Anecdotally, a local business owner informed me recently that retail sales at the store declined considerably beginning in August. The City may see a decrease in monthly sales tax receipts in a few months as supply chain issues and other challenges begin to creep into the local economic picture.

- Americans got a stark warning from the government this week: Expect higher heating bills this winter. According to the Energy Information Administration, nearly half of U.S. households that warm their homes with mainly natural gas can expect to spend an average of 30% more on their bills compared with last year. The agency added that bills would be 50% higher if the winter is 10% colder than average and 22% higher if the winter is 10% warmer than average. *Source: Wall Street Journal*

- Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan says he is willing to wield broad regulatory power to enact President Biden’s climate agenda if Congress fails to pass meaningful climate legislation. Regan says his agency will issue a robust greenhouse gas rule for power plants, a stringent methane rule for oil and gas infrastructure, and sweeping emissions standards for new cars, regardless of Congress’s actions. “EPA is at the center of the president’s ambitious climate agenda,” Regan said. “And in addition to the legislative pieces, EPA is already aggressively using its rulemaking authority to deliver the types of emission reductions that we need to protect people from climate pollution.” *Source: Washington Post*

Personnel Update:

- The following positions are vacant and currently advertised: Police Officer, Public Works Maintenance Worker (3), Distribution/Collection Maintenance Worker, Sanitation Lead, Firefighter, Park Technician, and Water Treatment Superintendent.
- I decided to authorize the internal advertisement of the Park Technician position instead of waiting until the beginning of the year. The full-time position will cost the budget less than \$14,000 if filled in the next few weeks. More importantly, it will give the Parks and Recreation Department a jumpstart on filling this position in order to get some tasks completed before the next growing season begins.
- There has been a lot of discussion throughout the nation about workforce shortages effecting nearly every industry. Local government has not been immune to the shortage as many cities and counties are looking for quality candidates to fill critical positions. The City of El Dorado currently has 91% of its positions filled. Some departments may have a few more openings than other departments, although service delivery remains at acceptable levels despite these open positions.

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **October 18 – Regular Meeting** – 1425 E. 6th Avenue SUP (accessory apartment); BCC Fire Training Facility Lease; 2022 Pay Plan
 - **October 27 Work Session** – Village Park Proposal; Park Curfew Ordinance; Pets-in-Park Ordinance
 - **November 1 Regular Meeting** – Hazardous Materials Agreement with Butler County; Myers East Addition Public Infrastructure Authorization; Executive Session for City Manager Evaluation
 - **November 10 Work Session** – Legislative Agenda
- *Pending Items (Items to be scheduled for upcoming meeting once completed):* Augusta Wholesale Water Agreement; Professional Services Agreement with PEC (Lake Recreation Master Plan); Street Cut Ordinance; Food Vendor Ordinance; Transient Vendor Ordinance; Business Park Re-platting and Rezoning
- *Upcoming Planning Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **October 28** – SUP for 323 S. Main Street (public assembly)