

TO: City Commission
CC: Department Directors
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: August 20, 2021



Items of Note:

- Representatives from El Dorado Inc. and the City met with Murfin Companies to discuss El Dorado Inc. proactive marketing campaign and actions needed to prepare the Grizzly Development acreage for development. Grizzly Development, Inc. owns a little more than 400 acres in the north industrial area. We discussed possible annexation and rezoning of the acreage and obtaining an ALTA survey and environmental audit of the properties. These steps will streamline the development process in the event a prospect selects the properties for an industrial development opportunity.
- Evergy provided the City with a Memorandum of Understanding for the downtown utility project. Staff will review the document and provide comments back to Evergy so we can have a written commitment for the project.
- Scott Rickard (City Engineer) and I attended Main Street’s Downtown Assembly earlier this week. We provided an update on the downtown utility project and explained how it will likely proceed. Main Street started (or rather continued) a discussion about a process to enhance the parking lot experience. Scott and I do not know exactly what the community desires to make the parking lots function better, although it is apparent that Main Street wants to lead a conversation about that subject. For the time being, staff will focus on the planning and coordination needed to complete the underground project. We can then entertain a discussion about the functionality of the parking lots.
- Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Brad Neuenswander visited USD 490 and the El Dorado community this week to gather feedback on the state’s vision for K-12 education. Commissioner Watson and members of the Kansas State Board of Education gathered community input on the current direction for Kansas K-12 education and shared progress made toward achieving the vision established by the Kansas State Board of Education several years ago. The graduation trend across the state has increased for all categories of students since the efforts outlined by the strategic plan were first implemented. Currently, about 88% of all high school students graduate from high school in Kansas. Education plays a critical role in the current and future prospects of the state and various communities. In addition, the state is reviewing current curriculum offerings in response to feedback from the private sector that graduating students lack the soft skills needed for success. These curriculum experiments will help determine what works to strengthen these skills and enhance Kansan employability.
- El Dorado Inc. hosted a stakeholder meeting with federal and state elected officials this week. Representatives from Senator Moran and Marshall’s offices attended. State Senator Michael Fagg also attended. This was a great opportunity for these stakeholders to learn about “Develop El Dorado” proactive campaign. It is likely that a significant project will require federal and state assistance, so it is important for us to maintain good communication with these officials. Staff members from both senators expressed appreciation with the invitation. They mentioned that the federal earmark process (now known by a different name however) will provide an opportunity for communities to receive direct aid for infrastructure projects from the federal government. The City will work with these officials to determine how to request these funds so that a request may be submitted when the program opens.

- The 150FEST parade scheduled for September 11 currently has thirty registered participants. We are a long way from the desired 150 floats.
- KDOT expressed support to staff for possibly reallocating funds from the Bike Path, Phase IV project to another alignment. The current alignment places the next iteration of the path adjacent to the compost site along the Walnut River. Staff inquired as to whether KDOT would allow the state funds allocated to this project to a different alignment because of difficulties arising from BNSF. Another possible alignment could extend the path along 12th Avenue where it would connect to the baseball/softball complex at the lake. It is my understanding that KDOT liked this possible alignment because of Butler County's plans to construct an event center at the former honor camp site and the connection to the baseball/softball complex. Another opportunity with this alignment is the fact that the City will soon begin a recreation master plan for El Dorado Lake, and this alignment could increase connectivity with amenities at the lake.
- Staff is working with Pastor David Crook to find a suitable location for the Big Tent Rally planned for September 12 through 18. Pastor Crook requested use of the grounds located south of BG Stadium, although scheduling conflicts will not accommodate the use of the facility for this event. The event will likely be held at the former tennis court site where there is adequate parking and electricity. There are also no scheduling issues.
- The City plans to begin opening BG Stadium to the public for walking/running on the track on August 30. We will open the stadium on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. We have not yet determined the best gate to open (decision will be made today), although it will be either the north or south gate. This will provide access without having to open the concourse. This schedule will be maintained until probably late October or early November when it gets cold outside. The City will begin to advertise this opportunity once we have determined the best entry point into the stadium.
- The City of Augusta is currently reviewing a draft wholesale water agreement. Their existing agreement does not expire until 2026, although they wanted to negotiate a renewal so they could begin construction on a new water main to serve the community with the certainty of the water supply. The governing body plans to review the draft agreement at an upcoming meeting before providing final guidance to the City. The forty-year agreement largely mirrors the existing agreement except that the rate will increase to \$0.73 per 1,000 gallons, largely to encapsulate the annual payment for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) paid to the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Augusta currently pays \$0.62 per 1,000 gallons.
- Beginning Friday, I will start providing my weekly report to candidates running for positions on the City Commission to inform them of what is happening in the City. I have had a candidate inquire about receiving the reports and it helps to provide the same information to all those running for office. It also helps ensure that candidates come into their positions (should they win) with a good base of information. I will also be reaching out to each candidate in the next week or so to schedule a time for me to meet with them.

Personnel Update:

- The following positions are vacant and currently advertised: Police Officer, Public Works Maintenance Worker (3), Distribution/Collection Maintenance Worker, and Sanitation Lead (2).
- April Kitterman will begin her job as the Assistant Court Clerk on Monday.
- The City made conditional offers to two candidates for Sanitation Lead. The post-offering screening remains the only thing between these candidates and a job.

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **September 7 Regular Meeting** - Professional Services Agreement for GPS Mapping Services; Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing; 2022 Budget Hearing and Adoption; Standard Traffic Ordinance; Uniform Public Offense Code; Memorandum of Understanding/Real Estate Contract with JB Rentals, LLC
 - **September 15 Work Session** – American Rescue Plan Funds; Code of Procedure
 - **September 20 Regular Meeting** - Professional Services Agreement for Lake Master Plan