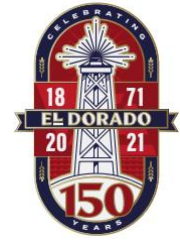


TO: City Commission
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager
SUBJ: Weekly Report
DATE: October 22, 2021



Items of Note:

- The City received notice from Butler County that its initial application for FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program was approved to move forward in the grant process by the State of Kansas. The project proposes to acquire “repetitive loss” properties located within the regulated floodplain, which would address potential flooding hazards listed as a problem area in the Butler County Regional Mitigation Strategy. The City estimates the cost of the project at \$500,000, of which FEMA would contribute approximately 75% of project expenses if selected for federal funding.
- Butler County scheduled its final stakeholder meeting concerning its proposed event center at the former honor camp site for 6:00 pm on October 27. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend as the City Commission has a work session scheduled for that evening. The meeting will provide an opportunity for Gravity Works, the County’s architect for the project, to present a preliminary concept and budget estimates for the proposed facility. I plan to meet with County Administrator Will Johnson ahead of the meeting to understand what the proposed project entails.
- The City received a memorandum of understanding from Evergy concerning the downtown underground project. The scope of work includes installing new conduit, underground primary and secondary cable, transformers, other pad mount devices and meters fed from underground at the following locations:
 - South of E. 2nd Avenue, in the alley between N. Main Street and N. Vine Street, where the alley ends just north of E. Central Avenue;
 - The alley just north of E. Central Avenue from N. Vine Street to the alley just west of N. Gordy Street; and
 - The alley just north of E. Central Avenue, north towards W. 1st Avenue.To accomplish this work, the underground work will be bored under each of the main roads. Evergy will bore/trench in the parking lot and alleys for the new primary line and each service. There will also need to be potholing existing utilities. Evergy plans to replace concrete or asphalt where such material is cut for the project. The agreement outlines the City’s not-to-exceed cost of \$340,000, which does not include the acquisition of easements. Evergy plans to commence construction in November or December of this year.
- Commissioner Wilkinson and I had a productive meeting about the City’s lake obligations with Katie Sawyer from Senator Marshall’s office. We discussed the potential paths for the City to receive some relief from congressional action. Options to modify the City’s obligation may include a request to convert the compounding interest to simple interest and change the interest rate to a rate more reflective of the existing interest rate environment. At a minimum, the request may help facilitate a discussion with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about improving information sharing with respect to annual operations and maintenance expenses at El Dorado Lake. Senator Marshall’s office will begin to explore the feasibility of making a congressional request by opening a conversation with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.
- A citizen survey to ascertain feedback from the public about the next Police Chief went live on the City’s website this week. The survey provides an opportunity for the public to share what characteristics are most important to the community for the highest police position in the city. Citizens will have until 5:00 pm on November 5 to complete the survey. In addition to the survey, I am considering hosting a

public forum as another opportunity for the public to provide input into the law enforcement priorities of the community. I invited the El Dorado Police Department to provide input via a survey as well, and I will be personally meeting with police lieutenants to discuss the future of the department. I plan to provide various community stakeholders (i.e., school districts, law enforcement community, etc.) with an opportunity to participate in a survey or meet with me to discuss their thoughts on law enforcement in El Dorado and the Police Chief position.

- The El Dorado Chamber of Commerce developed a childcare survey to assist in determining the need for childcare in El Dorado. The survey focuses more on the business perspective of the issue and will aid in developing community strategies to address childcare challenges. Head Start, Butler Community College, USD 490, and the City recently started a conversation on the topic of childcare. Businesses struggle to find workers and potential employees struggle to find childcare.
- PEC provided the City with a professional services agreement for the El Dorado Lake Recreation Master Plan. I forwarded a copy to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) since they will be integrally involved in the development of the plan. Department representatives verbally committed to participating in the funding of the plan as well. We will proceed with the agreement once KDWPT approves the scope.
- Staff met with Kevin Burk, owner of the El Dorado Arms Apartments, to discuss PEC's recently completed assessment of the building's basement deterioration. The building's basement extends under the sidewalk and alley. Water seeps into the basement because of this void. Over time, the seepage has caused substantial deterioration and damage to the basement walls. The options to address the issue range in cost from \$60,000 to \$100,000. Historically, the City would address similar situations by creating an improvement district and assessing the cost of the improvements to the affected property owners over a number of years. Kevin will obtain quotes for relocating his private infrastructure located within the void before we meet again to discuss next steps.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet to review a variance request for a 200-foot communications tower proposed for construction on a tract of land located north of Towanda Avenue and east of the Grizzly Villas. The City's regulations allow a tower with a maximum height of eighty feet unless the BZA grants a variance for heights in excess of this limit.

Things to Think About:

- On Monday, the EPA released its strategy for addressing a type of cancer-linked chemicals called PFAS, including its plans to finish a rule to regulate certain types of PFAS in drinking water in 2023. PFAS is an acronym that means "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances," and are a group of manufactured chemicals linked to health problems such as kidney and testicular cancer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, exposure rates can be difficult to assess, but one 2015 study found PFAS to be in the blood of 97% of Americans. The agency's drinking water limit pertains to certain types of PFAS called PFOA and PFOS, saying it hopes to propose an enforceable drinking water limit for them in fall 2022 and finalize it in fall 2023.

Personnel Update:

- *Vacant and currently advertised positions:* Police Officer, Public Works Maintenance Worker (3), Distribution/Collection Maintenance Worker, Sanitation Lead, Firefighter
- *Pending advertisement:* Water Treatment Superintendent, Police Chief, Recreation Technician
- The City accepted internal applications for the Park Technician position before opening it to the public. Following this process, the City moved Fabricio Lacerda, a part-time employee in the Parks and Recreation Department, to full-time status.

Commission Calendar:

- *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*
 - **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; FEMA BRIC Grant Request
 - **November 15 Regular Meeting** - Condemnation Resolution (320 W. Towanda, 513 W 5th, 624 N. Atchison, 626 W. Carr, and 814 Railroad); Park Curfew Ordinance; Pets at Recreation Activities Ordinance; Sale and Consideration of G.O. Bonds, Series 2021; SUP at 323 S. Main Street (Public Assembly)

- *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)