

# WEEKLY MEMO

**Date:** October 22, 2010

**To:** Mayor Lynn Stauss. Council President Dick Grassel, Vice President Henry Tweten, Council Members Marc Demers, Craig Buckalew, Wayne Gregoire, Greg Leigh, and Mike Pokrzywinski.

**From:** Scott Huizenga

**RE:** Weekly Update

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

*October 26, 2010 – 7:00 am – Library Board*

*October 26, 2010 – 7:00 am – EDHA*

*October 26, 2010 – 5:00 pm - Work Session*

*October 27, 2010 – GreenStep Cities - Crookston*

*October 27, 2010 – 5:00 pm Budget Meeting*

*November 1, 2010 – 12:00 pm – State Aid Task Force*

*November 2, 2010 – Election Day*

*November 4, 2010 – 5:00 pm Regular Council Meeting (Note Date Change)*

*November 4, 2020 – 5:00 pm Water and Light Commission*

*November 10-12 – CGMC Fall Conference - Alexandria*

## **WEEKLY UPDATE:**

### **State Aid Task Force**

The State Aid Task Force met again Monday. The main tenets of the discussion was arriving at a fee that could be acceptable to residents, but would adequately maintain streets. The Task Force looked at several options, including increasing the assessment rates on reconstructions to 40 percent (from the previously-proposed 30 percent); and assuming a 50-year life cycle rather than a 40-year life cycle on streets. The Task Force also discussed billing systems based on utility meters rather than based on zoning type and lot size. The City already uses utility meters as a base for the insect control fee and the greenway maintenance fee. Therefore, the system is already in place. The Task Force will meet again on November 1.

### **Labor Update**

Council Member DeMers and I met with the Water and Light Commission the city's approved labor agreements. We meet with the Water and Light bargaining unit on Monday to begin negotiations on a new agreement. The City will propose a two-year agreement so that all bargaining units have the same calendar and the same terms and conditions.

### **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission approved a draft of the 2040 Land Use Plan at Thursday's meeting. Staff will refine the draft and present to Council later this year. The Planning Commission also tabled the final plat for the city-owned "Coulee View Addition" (Stokes Property) pending clarification of floodplain regulations.

## **Department Reports**

### **Fire Department, Chief Randy Gust**

- The fire chief is attending the State Fire Chiefs Conference this week in Rochester, MN.
- All of the pumper trucks have been tested and recertified by Emergency Apparatus. This year all of the trucks passed without any problems.
- The hiring process started for the hiring of new fulltime firefighter this week by Civil Service Commission.

### **Parks and Recreation, Dave Aker**

- Trees are being finalized down in the campground this week. The campground's last day is Friday, Oct 22!
- The Parks and Recreation has hired a temporary maintenance worker to fill in for the Parks Foreman while he is out on a medical disability.
- We have finished blowing out the lines at the trailheads and parks. The only place we have left is the campground.
- Dirt will be put in the berms where trees were taken down and grass planted.

## **AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. The City Engineer will present the final rolls for assessment projects. The Council will file the rolls at the next Regular Council meeting; and schedule public hearings for November 16. The Laurel Drive project does not require an additional public hearing because the roll has been filed and the final cost was lower than the initial roll. The City will adjust the final roll to reflect the reduced cost.
2. Representatives of the Firefighter Relief Association will discuss its pension plan with the City Council.
3. Mr. Aker received quotations to replace the damaged bleachers at Stauss Park. The City's property insurance will pay for the bleachers as a result of damage from a windstorm. This item can also be reduced from the 2011 Proposed Budget.
4. Mr. Wachter will present quotes for lift station maintenance.