

# WEEKLY MEMO

**Date:** May 13, 2011

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

**From:** Scott Huizenga

**RE:** Weekly Update

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

*May 17, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

*May 24, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room*

*May 31, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room (If Needed)*

*June 7, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

## **WEEKLY UPDATE:**

I will be out of the office from Wednesday, May 18 through Monday, May 23. I will return on the Tuesday, May 24.

### **SCADA Addition**

Last fall, the City rejected quotes on a proposal Storm Water and Waste Water Monitoring (SCADA) building addition for Public Works. Currently, staff is pursuing alternatives that include currently unoccupied space at the Water Treatment Plant or the Parks and Recreation maintenance building. Staff will report back to Council soon with a recommendation based on the overall best value for the cost.

### **Industrial Park**

Senator Klobuchar's office responded this week to the City's request to facilitate the Industrial Park infrastructure project. The City may have to wait another 30 days before we can advertise for bids. Staff is concerned that further delay will affect competitive bid prices, which could jeopardize the project. The project paperwork has been at the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) office since early January. EDA along with the State of Minnesota are funding approximately 75 percent of the project.

### **Legislative Update**

Mandate relief has quick fallen off the table as the legislative session progresses. Items such as the repeal of pay equity compliance and relaxing labor union protections fell early in the session. More recently, the legislature dropped provisions that would have allowed cities to change health care plans without proving to unions equal "aggregate value of benefits." And, the legislature dropped a provision that would have allowed cities to publish newly-passed ordinances on city web sites rather than in newspapers as a cost-savings mechanism.

State bonding requests for 2012 must be submitted to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) by June 24. Please contact me if you have specific bonding suggestions. We will

discuss bonding at a future Council Work Session so that the City has a unified, final proposal to the state.

HF57, which bans synthetic cannabinoids such as “Spice,” passed unanimously in the Senate. The next stop is the Governor’s office.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

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

The Fire Department was informed by American Crystal Sugar Company that they are going to donate \$10,000. towards the purchase of equipment that will not only benefit the company but will also benefit the entire community.

The Fire Department held high and low level rescue training on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The training took place at the Thompson Bean Plant along with property that is owned by Zavorals. We had 10 of our members volunteer to take part in the training along with members of the Grand Forks and Warren fire departments. The cost of the training was \$4,000 and was put on by Rescue Max out of the Twin Cities. The City is being reimbursed the cost through a state fire training grant.

### **Library, Charlotte Helgeson**

Registrations for our summer programs are coming in steadily. A large portion of registrants are using the online form. There are new waiver forms attached to each registration that protects the library. The waiver also includes a choice to give or not give permission for each participant’s name and picture to be used in our publicity. Our Spring Volunteer Reception will be held in the Library’s large meeting room this Friday, May 13 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Presidential Awards will be given out for hours volunteered at the library, a Life-Long Service Award will be given to Peter Kelly and the Friends will give out a Volunteer of the Year Award.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

The consent agenda includes several bids for street maintenance, sewer cleaning, and equipment purchases. The consent agenda also contains an item to increase the wage of Paid-On-Call Firefighters. This is the first increase since 1993. And, finally, the consent agenda includes an authorization to fill a vacant patrol officer position.

New business includes the following.

- The purchase of a new 2-ton truck, box, and plow for the Public Works Department. The Central Equipment Fund will finance this purchase.
- Authorizing plans and specifications for the proposed LaFave Park Pedestrian/Bike path reconstruction. The proposed design includes the original proposal as submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that would reconstruction the entire trail along the river from the Louis Murray bridge up to the railroad bridge.