

## Management Activity Report

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**US 6 Phase 1:** The Contractor has established the following schedule for the project. We're preparing social media, news media, and email alert posts with this information.

- June 10<sup>th</sup> June 24<sup>th</sup>: US 6 EB lane closed from Berlin Road to project limits (traffic shifted to center lane).
- June 25<sup>th</sup> July 8<sup>th</sup>: US 6 WB lane closed from Berlin Road to project limits (traffic shifted to center lane).
- July 9<sup>th</sup> July 24<sup>th</sup>: Major work and paving in this stretch including crosswalks, curbs, crosswalks, and islands. This is the portion of the project that traffic delays would be anticipated. Additional signage and flaggers will be present to keep traffic flowing as best as possible.
- July 25<sup>th</sup>: Once the first phase is complete, work will shift to the area from Berlin to Williams St. Plan details will be established as we get closer to this portion of the project.

**US 6 Phase 2**: Staff is coordinating a meeting with ODOT to discuss the request to delay Phase 2. Since the request was submitted, a recent policy change at ODOT (within the last week) modified how they handle public requests for a break in the limited access (LA) highway. Previously, requests for breaks in the LA could only be done at a substantial cost rendering the project infeasible. The new indication we're being told is that requests from public agencies can be completed at no cost (other than capital improvements). If this is the case, it modifies our entire strategy relative to US 6 Phase 2, all the more reason to delay the project for us to fully explore this potential.

**Finance / Council Joint Work Session**: We're having a joint session on Monday to discuss the proposed project to sell the transmission assets of the Huron Public Power Substation. The City Manager of Napoleon (Joel Mazur) and Mayor of Amherst (Mark Costilow) will both be present to discuss projects they've completed in their jurisdictions.

**Defense Counsel:** Per advisement of Mr. Ebert and Mr. Schrader, I executed the joint representation and conflict waiver on behalf of the City and submitted it to Mr. Downey and Ms. Schoolcraft. An extension had already been secured on behalf of the City (new deadline for an answer is June 11<sup>th</sup>). Now that our counsel is officially appointed, they will be submitting the answer on behalf of the City in accordance with that timeframe. Mr. Downey expressed an interest to meet with Council at our next in-person meeting.

**SSE&G Transition**: I began the on-boarding process with Mr. Ebert and Mr. Schrader on Friday. Both Todd, Gary, and another associate will be here on Tuesday afternoon (1 PM - 4 PM) to

continue the download of information, meet staff, tour city facilities, and get their office space set-up. I've invited Ben and would also invite any members of Council interested in attending. I'll have an agenda put together by Monday and can share that with anyone who would like to review. Mr. Ebert and Mr. Schrader both executed their Oath's of Office and have provided them for our files.

## ConAgra / USGS:

- Utilities: I've made initial contact with our reps at both Norfolk Southern and ODNR to discuss property access for the alternate utility layout. I'll keep Council posted as those discussions continue.
- HJPA: Staff, Mr. Critelli and Mayor Artino will be meeting with the sub-group of the Port Authority that is leading their efforts for the proposed USGS project. I look forward to the discussion and will keep Council posted as we move along. I continue to remain optimistic about the possibilities of the project.

**Township Funding**: I had a meeting with Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Hahn to discuss funding partnerships with the Township, specifically contributions to HJRD, School Resource Officer, and Huron Fire. They are evaluating their finances due to decreased revenues experienced from Kalahari's closure. We're continuing our discussions on the topic. I'll keep Council posted as we work through everything.

**Code Enforcement Officer**: As highlighted in the latest iteration of the Monthly COVID-19 Financial Report, I directed staff to re-advertise for the position of part-time code enforcement officer. Bed tax collections, registration activities, and overall zoning and code enforcement activities are outpacing our initial COVID-19 projections. The budget included \$25,000 for this position. Due to an anticipated start date of July, the actual expenditure would be \$12,000. I also had a productive meeting with Mr. Kauffman relative to prosecution of upcoming code enforcement efforts. I'm confident Mike will be helpful in these efforts.

## **COVID-19 Operations:**

- Fabens: The first major baseball tournament at Fabens Park since the State allowed baseball activities is happening this weekend. Staff and the tournament director were in close contact with the Health Department all week. All parties met on site last night to finalize plans. The tournament did get the go-ahead. This tournament director has two more tournaments this summer.
- Playgrounds: Recent announcements from the State indicated playgrounds can re-open on June 10<sup>th</sup>. However, the guidelines for opening are to follow the "Retail Services and Entertainment" Guidelines, which would include hourly sanitizing of hard surfaces and social distancing or physical barriers. These are both not feasible. We're hopeful specific playground regulations come out soon. In the meantime, we continue to post signs or caution tape indicating the playground systems are closed.
- Nickel Plate Beach: We've had a successful season so far with excellent weather. Even
  with tourist activities down, we've had increased weekday numbers compared to
  previous years. We're monitoring overall capacity relative to total number of cars in

preparation for big weekends to prevent overcrowding and are working out logistics of a capacity cap should the need arise.

Republic Services: Increased capacity in all facets of service delivery have resulted in multiple consecutive weeks of service delays. Republic indicated total tonnage of all material is up close to 30% for our region, which slows the crew down. While understood, the service delivery and late communication has been unacceptable. I've expressed our dissatisfaction and am hopeful to see improvement this week. We've asked that at a minimum, we be notified earlier in the day if delays are expected (typically we aren't noticed until that evening). We're getting pricing on a direct text messaging program that can be used for timely proactive notifications to keep the community informed on garbage updates and a host of other city alerts.

**Commercial with Buckeye Cable**: Buckeye Cable worked with the Chamber and multiple businesses along Main St. and the Boat Basin to create a commercial promoting Huron to help small businesses in the midst of COVID-19. The commercial was very cost effective. We'll share it across all of our social media platforms once completed.

**Cleveland Road Sidewalk / Sewer:** Erie County Sanitary Dept. will be back in the coming weeks to fix the undermined sidewalk in front of Colonial Colony (where cones are currently placed). They were on site last week fixing a problem with their underground pump station.

**Sandusky**: Mr. Swaisgood and I met with Mr. Wobser and members of his staff to discuss continued regional partnership efforts. We discussed a host of opportunities – most pressing is an effort to establish a plan for a multi-modal path along the lake shore connecting all of Erie County (and eventually connecting to other Counties). I'll keep Council posted in the event a kick-off meeting is scheduled.