



Good Afternoon Everyone,

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of June 22, 2020:

Douglas Harbor Authority – The Harbor Authority met this week to review several items such as buoy installation, bridge signage, boat launch maintenance, aquatic weeds and Point Pleasant Marina. Buoy installation is now contracted with Boat Lifts Unlimited for the next three years, the bridge signage has been ordered and will indicate “*Low Clearance*”, boat launch maintenance at Schultz Park has been an issue because of increased usage and the repair will cost about \$12,600 (which has not been budgeted), aquatic invasive weeds are being treated, the authority made a recommendation to buy a floating dock system for Wades Bayou, and finally the Authority made a recommendation for City Council to purchase Point Pleasant Marina using a DNR acquisition grant.

Aquatic Weed Control – Aquatic Doctors applied herbicide to approximately 55 acres of Wades Bayou. This is the first treatment of two treatments.

Water Main Projects – The three water main projects (Whittier / First, McVea, and Fremont) are scheduled to begin in mid-August. This week I had an on-site meeting with residents on Whittier along with the City Engineer to discuss concerns about removal of trees and landscaping located within the public right-of-way. I also had a pre-construction meeting with ConAg Harris of Bloomingdale, Michigan.

Bonding – The Mayor and I had a conference call with Baird Financial this week to discuss the City's bond needs to fund future infrastructure projects. The City will have to bond for capital improvement projects such as water, sewer, storm utilities, and facilities in the coming years and this was the initial conversation to give the financial advisor an overview of the City's goals.

Union Street Resurfacing – I've been responding to calls about Union Street. The bid will be issued on Monday with opening on July 13th. A vendor will be awarded a contract at the July 20 City Council meeting and they will be directed to complete construction prior to the end of the construction season.

Downtown Signage – DPW reinstalled the old red arrow downtown sign at the intersection of Center and Blue Star Highway and also reinstalled a vintage arrow on the sign at Main and Blue Star Highway. There is still conversation about a new sign being held by the DDA, but to address some of the immediate needs of the merchants, the signs were pulled out of storage and reinstalled until a new sign is created.

Tree Grant – Consumers Energy has a “Right Tree, Right Place” grant that I'm working on with the Deputy Clerk. Friday we identified approximately 12+ trees that could be installed or replaced around town with the grant funding. The intent of the program is to promote a green canopy in municipalities; however, when planting under or over underground electric, the proper tree should be selected to limit interference with electric utilities. We can apply for up to 25 trees at \$100 per tree. Applications are due in August.

Planning Meeting – Wednesday I attended a zoom meeting for a Planning Commission that lasted over four hours. The agenda focused on an addition at 26 Hamilton Street, a proposed site plan on Wiley called Tannery Creek, addition to condominiums at W. Fremont Street, and a proposed site plan on West Center Street. The Planning Commission also elected new officers.

Campbell Road – I spoke with the City Engineer about how to solve the weeping hill problem and he has ordered soil borings to evaluate the soil conditions which will be used to determine the ground water level of the hill. Understanding the ground water issues is necessary to determine how to design the drainage under the road. I’m prompting him to get this problem resolved this year.

Beach Erosion and Stairs – I had an engineer at Douglas beach this week discussing the revetment work. Additional quotes are being sought to install steel and stone to hold back the hill and create some beach space.

Crisis Response Planning – A team of City Council and City staff have been meeting to develop a crisis response plan. The team met on Tuesday to continue the discussion about what a crisis plan for the City looks like. A resolution will be presented to City Council in July.

Library – I had a tour of the new “Douglas-Saugatuck” Library on Friday. The building is impressive. We will see some dramatic changes over the next few weeks as the project begins to enter its completion phase.

Summer Taxes – It’s that time again, summer taxes will be mailed out in the next few weeks.

That’s all I have for now. Have a great weekend.

Reminder: Fourth of July is next weekend and City offices will be closed on July 3 in observance.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager

