CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE MEMO

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To: Mayor and City Council

From: City Administrator, Kim Downs & Park & Recreation Director Kelly Willadsen

Date: February 23, 2017

RE: January/February City Administrator Report

Legislative Communication-

Last week I had shared the mayor's letter to our legislators with the League of Cities. They were impressed with the letter and said more communities need to engage with their legislators like this and would like us to submit a similar letter to the Des Moines Register still with the Home Rule flair. We will get working on this.

Representative Ashley Hinson is moving forward on the Ground Medical Emergency Transportation Services (GEMT) bill. She has adapted the bill similar to the State of Oregon's. She has asked for input from both Mike and I on the draft bill. Ashley hopes to get it to a committee for review shortly.

HF291 Collective Bargaining Reform was passed on both sides of the aisle and was signed by the governor. This bill actually affects Public Works far more than the Police contract. We are working with the union members Teamster's representative on how we move forward with our recent contract negotiations. The Police Union contract for FY-18 will stay intact and was approved by the union members. We will be bringing their contract to council shortly. As of July 1 we will no longer be able to deduct union dues through our payroll system.

As for public works we are still waiting to hear whether they have agreed to our counter proposal of 2% wage increase. Essentially this is the only item they can bargain for. Fortunately, the public works contract mirrors many of our employee handbook policies.

Metro Alliance will be hosting their second Policy on the Rocks on Friday March 2 at 5:30. Quarter Barrel Arcade & Brewery will be hosting the event.

Earth Day-

Earth Day is set for Saturday April 22 and as reminder we are relocating the event to the Public Works Shop hoping to get people out of the cold and wind. We will bring people in on Clymer Road, than to Thiher routing them to the back of the shop. From there they will maneuver through the stations and exit onto Robins Road.

Safety "Stand Down" Day-

Our annual employee safety "Stand Down" day is set for March 8. This day will a full day safety workshop that will focus on our team safety and team building. We have significantly grown this program over the past 10 years and this is what I can equate the reduction of our workers compensation premiums. We will see another excellent year with a low MOD rate of .74 and are on track to receiving discounts up to 18% of our premium.

MPO-Regional Transit System-

DART- a Des Moines regional transit system presented the makeup of their organization as it relates to governance to our MPO committee. The positive of the system was that they have been in business for 10 years with partnerships with greater Des Moines, medical centers, public schools, public art and metro communities but they are facing many challenges mostly financially with some hesitation with governance.

The Corridor MPO Committee member will coordinate with each of their jurisdictions to appoint a representative to the RTA Advisory Group. This will consist of individuals from the cities of Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Marion, Robins and Linn County. CR Transit and Linn County LIFTS will also be a part of the advisory committee.
Each jurisdiction participating is welcome to have more than 1 representative and each jurisdiction is encouraged to send an elected official and a high level staff person as representatives.

Good News!-
The decorative street lights lighting issue from Parsons Drive to the railroad tracks are finally resolved at no cost to the city. The issue was faulty drivers. Sternberg, the manufacture provided at no cost replacement drivers. They are now installed and working well.

The Community Center Sound System was also repaired at no extra cost. Appeared to be a poor cabling connection.

Business Employee Survey-
In preparation of Town Center re-development and potential perspectives staff has put together a short business employee survey asking a total of 13 questions. The responses will help us determine the business community's daily needs.

We have forwarded the survey to Go Daddy's Headquarter Office for approval. Once we have their approval we will ask all businesses along Center Point Road to participate in the survey. Upon receiving the survey information, we will put together a focus group that will consist of local business representatives, residents and staff to focus on after work needs as well.

Speaking Engagements and Economic Development Interest-
For the past couple of months there has been a lot of interest in Hiawatha and our efforts in economic development. This past Friday Community Development Director Pat Parsley and I spoke with the Leadership Five Season group, the topic of interest was economic development. It went very well; in fact, the group was impressed with our passion for the community. To back up our claim of being a one stop shop we included Doug Sevey of Enseva Hiawatha to speak of his success story. During his presentation he shared his gratitude to the city and to our staff. He went as far as to say he would not do business in Cedar Rapids and as to why.

I will also be speaking to a group of businessmen called Breakfast of Champions next month, again the topic economic development. Lastly, we have been asked to speak at during Mediacom's Newsleaders Week. Mayor Bennett will take this one and will be able to choose his topics. This has been fun and exciting with more to come.