
MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor Walker and Councilors
FROM: M McPherson, City Administrator
SUBJECT: **Bi-Weekly Administrator's Report**
DATE: April 25, 2023

I have the following observations and information to share from the last update:

Airport

Mr. Moriarty, representing Duane Kruse and Sharon Sandberg has returned a revised through the fence agreement. The revisions proposed are a non-starter, it puts the entire cost of maintenance and replacement of the single-use taxiway on the backs of the taxpayers. I am working with Attorney Toven on an appropriate response.

There is a vacancy on the Airport Advisory Board, so any assistance in recruitment would be fantastic.

Development

Staff continues to work on the various Glen Metalcraft items: establishment of a TIF District, completion of the MN Investment Fund application to DEED, and a potential closing on May 26. So far, with staff and consultants pulling together, it all appears to be on track.

Staff met with Rick Schwartz regarding various developments not related to his property. He is interested in finding a role to play to move the projects along and to help increase the tax base.

Finance

Staff continues to work with Abdo and Smith Schafer on compiling information for completion of the audit. Staff from Smith Schafer will be in the office April 26 to 28, 2023.

Infrastructure

Staff is meeting with Mille Lacs County on April 26 to discuss a possible roundabout or traffic control change at the intersection of 1st Street and 21st Avenue. With the completion of 21st Avenue, there has been an increase in traffic through the intersection and some movements are becoming more difficult. This will only get worse as development occurs in the Princeton Business Park, the Charlie-Bravo site, and with additional phases of apartments off of 1st Street.

Work continues on establishing requirements to rent the Surrey Bike. If modifications to a building to create a storage space come to fruition, rentals may yet be available this summer.

Personnel

Work continues on the Personnel Manual. The work is progressing nicely.

The interviews for the open Police Officer position were successful. Three applicants were interviewed and the panel unanimously agreed that one should be offered the position. A conditional offer of employment was extended and accepted. The candidate will be introduced and sworn in once the remaining employment steps are completed.

Legislative Monitoring

I am monitoring, with help from CGMC and LMC various legislative topics. Of interest:

- *Bill to Address Public Safety PTSD (House File 1234, Senate File 1959)*; requires treatment for a mental injury prior to filing for a duty disability, keeps employees on payroll while receiving treatment, financial support to backfill positions, fully reimburses employers for health insurance provide the employer has implemented mental health injury prevention measures, requires preservice training to prepare staff for stressful events and to teach coping mechanisms. The bill received a second reading April 25 in the House; in the Senat it was referred to the Rules and Administration Committee on the same day.
- *Earned Sick and Safe Time (House File 19, Senate File 34)*; requires employers to provide on hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked. This covers all employees including part-time and seasonal, working 80 hours in a year for the employer. There has been no further action since the April 11 update.
- *Competing Bonding Bills*; two bills have been unveiled, a General Obligation bonding bill totaling \$1.5 billion and a "cash only" bill of \$392 million. The House passed the bonding bill, but the Senate has not. Per the April 10 CGMC Legislative Update, it is likely that there will be an all-cash bonding bill this session as that will not require any Republican votes; this does not bode well for out-state projects that lie in predominantly Republican districts.
- *Local Government Aid Increase (House File 1377, Senate File 1828)*; increases the appropriation for local government aid and modifies the calculation for distribution. The House referred it to the Taxes Committee and the Chair referred it to the Property Tax Division. The Senate has referred it to the Taxes Committee. Per LMC, the House Omnibus Tax bill includes an additional \$100 million to the base amount and also includes the formula changes. The Senate bill has not been released yet.
- *Indigenous Peoples Day (House File 211, Senate File 104)*; eliminates and replaces Columbus Day, requires observance where no public business could be conducted on the second Monday in October. If passed, it would become effective for 2023. There has been no change further action on these bills since the April 11 Update.
- LMC issued a note that the implementation of Juneteenth may be moved from 2024 to 2023. Official legislative action has not yet occurred, but there have been rumblings around the Capital to the effect.

CGMC continues to monitor a number of environmental bills that could pose issues as currently drafted for wastewater and air permitting. They are lobbying against the broad nature of the bills as drafted as that will have unintended consequences for outstate Minnesota.

Upcoming Meeting/Event Reminders

- April 27 – LMC Safety & Loss Control Workshop, St. Cloud. Public Works Director Gerold, Chief of Police Frederick, Technology Services Manager Yost and I are attending. This is a very inexpensive offering from the League and they have excellent topics and speakers.
- May 9 – State of the City Address. I will be presenting the State of the City to Chamber members at their May Lunch and Learn. Superintendent Barton will be present for the State of the School District. The Address is being held at the media center at the Princeton Middle School.