
MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor Walker and Councilors
FROM: M McPherson, City Administrator
SUBJECT: **Bi-Weekly Administrator's Report**
DATE: May 9, 2023

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

Airport

There has been no response from Mr. Moriarty regarding the access agreement. He was in attendance at the Airport Advisory Board meeting of May 1, 2023.

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.

Finance

Staff continues to work with Abdo and Smith Schafer on compiling information for completion of the audit.

Infrastructure

The meeting with Mille Lacs County staff to discuss the intersection of 1st and 21st on April 26 went very well. They concurred that a traffic control change is likely needed and are willing to add it to their 2026/27 project that will upgrade County Road 31 to the west. There was discussion regarding turning back County Road 157 (the north leg) to the City. No commitments were made at this time.

Work continues on establishing requirements to rent the Surrey Bike. A video was made regarding the bike and how it is to be operated; several high school students participated in the video.

Personnel

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

Mille Lacs County

I received the following invitation from Dillon Hayes, Mille Lacs County Administrator on May 8:

I'd like to invite you all to a special meeting of the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 30, 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to engage with all of our community partners in Mille Lacs County – both to provide an update on County operations, but also to engage in open dialogue with you all (and your board chairs, mayors, etc.) as representatives of your respective organizations on how we can further our working relationship and continue to improve public service to all residents of Mille Lacs County.

The agenda for the meeting is attached. If there is a possibility that there will be a quorum, it should be posted as a special meeting.

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 passed on the House floor and is awaiting Senate action.
- *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. The bill passed on the House floor on May 8 and is anticipated to pass in the Senate; it will then be referred to a conference committee. Cities have been asked to provide information regarding leave days taken by employees in the last four years to the Legislative Budget Office.
- *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. Increases in LGA are in conference committee discussion as the House and the Senate have different amounts of an increase.
- *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 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.
- Changes to the MN Public Employment Relations Law are included in both the House and Senate omnibus labor policy bills. Provisions would make staffing ratios an item to be collectively bargained and requires the employer to provide certain employee data, a space to meet, and time off to conduct union business.

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.

Community Outreach

I participated in the Chamber's May Lunch and Learn event on May 9. A copy of the 2023 State of the City presentation is attached for your information.

Upcoming Meeting/Event Reminders

- June 1 – Study Session, joint meeting with the Princeton Public Utilities Commission.
- July 6 – Study Session, joint meeting with the Airport Advisory Board to review and discuss the capital projects and budget.