



City Manager's Update May 20, 2024

106 South Center Demolition:

The utilities have been removed from the property. The County Land Bank Authority (CLBA) have executed a Hazardous Materials Inspections contract with Fishbeck. When the report comes back, the CLBA will provide a copy of the report to the State Land Bank Authority for approval. Once approval is given, CLBA will bid the project. We have awarded the contract to Cross Excavation; we would need an updated bid if the scope of work has changed. I do not have a timeline from the county on when the inspections will be complete.

5 W. Main Street:

Van Buren County Community Service Director, Lisa Ransler contacted me regarding 5 W. Main Street. The County Land Bank applied for funding to renovate 5 W. Main. The funding offered to the County Land Bank was not enough to renovate the entire property. The total cost estimate to renovate and stabilize the property so it could be a white box is \$1.2M. The county is considering demolishing the property, there is not a Developer interested in the property.

Evidence Room Audit:

The Michigan State Police Paw Paw post will complete the evidence audit for the police department. The audit will start on June 14th – 24th. The city will have a cost saving of \$10k, it will not cost the city for the MSP completing the evidence audit.

Hiring at the DPW and WWTP:

The city hired Adan Rodriguez and Robert Hadlow to work for the Department of Public Works. Robert and Adan first day working is May 15th and James McCallion at the Waste Water Treatment plant first day will be May 20th.

WWTP Update:

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), water resource division inspected the WWTP on March 21st. The inspection was to determine compliance with Part 31 and the administrative rules promulgated, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Myself, Scott Stair, and Jeremy

Rubio of EGLE was present for the inspection. The inspections included Ultraviolet Disinfection, Effluent Exceedances, Total Mercury, and Schedules of Compliance. We received violations on the effluent monitoring exceedances for Mercury and biosolids removal.

The biosolids removal was completed prior to receiving the inspection letter from EGLE. I've attached a copy of Andy's corrective response to the violations.

The reports due to EGLE for compliance have been submitted late by our previous plant operator and Andy. I spoke to Andy regarding this problem and was assured that our mandatory reports will be submitted on time. Andy stated the Facility Monitoring program was submitted late because it was the first time he experienced the NPDES permit and the second report Pollutant Minimization Program annual report for total mercury was during the time Andy welcomed a new baby to the family. Both reports were submitted but were late submissions.

Andy and Scott are currently re-testing to see where the mercury could be coming from. We have a local dentist office that may pose a mercury discharge risk. Staff are working closely with Jeremy Rubio to find the source of the problem.

Construction at the WWTP have not begun yet. Nicol will be meeting with Wightman to find out the schedule.

Insurance Update:

Staff met with the Rose Street Advisors regarding the health insurance medical plans, COBRA, benefit termination and new hire benefits packet. I noticed that it was limited providers excepting new patients in the area that are within the network area therefore, I asked the advisors was their other plans available. The advisors offered 2 other medical plans that the city could offer city employees. Currently, we have only 1 plan to choose from. Also, we discussed changing our renewal date to match our fiscal year date.