

Happy Friday Afternoon all. Here is the City Manager's week in review.

Douglas Beach - This week started out with a walk down to Douglas Beach bright and early Monday morning only to discover the high winds and waves had damaged the stairs and also eroded away the beach so that there was a significant drop off at the bottom of the stairs. Due to the dangerous condition of the stairs and the drop off, we had to close off the access to the beach stairs and install signage at the beachside and topside to notify residents that the beach stairs were closed. I also contacted the Police Department and the fire department to let them know the gate would be locked and also provided a key to Douglas PD. We don't plan to make repairs until the spring.

City Council - Monday evening was a busy City Council meeting. Council went into closed session to discuss pending litigation. At 6:30 a reception was held for Greg Harvath. Regular Council started at 7:00 and we had a presentation from interurban and the library board updated Council on the library construction project. The mayor issued a proclamation of appreciation for Greg Harvath for all his years of service to the City of Douglas

Annual Audit - For new Council business there was a presentation by the firm Siegfried Crandall who conducted the City's audit. Our City Treasurer received praise for his diligent work on the bookkeeping and how smoothly the audit process was conducted. The City as a whole is in a good financial position. Thanks Dave, for all your hard work on the audit. Copies of the audit are available for review at the City's website or the Treasurer's office during normal business hours.

RRC - the next new business item was the resolution to continue participation in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Redevelopment Ready Community Program. The Planning and Zoning Director presented on that topic and Council approved the resolution.

Street Administrator - Council next approved a resolution to designate the City Manager as the City's Street Administrator.

Invasive aquatic weeds - We had two representatives from Aquatic Doctors on hand to answer questions about controlling invasive weeds in Wades Bayou. The City approved hiring Aquatic Doctors to do a test application next year in the bayou, but the cost for the services will have to come back to Council once the permitting process and targeted species is identified. There was a question about how the currents and flows would impact the product application and Aquatic Doctors was confident that the granular herbicide when properly placed in the right conditions would be 70%+ effective.

License Agreement - Council approved a license agreement for placement of signage in the Blue Star Highway right of way for 2918 Blue Star Highway.

Snow Removal Contract - Finally, Council awarded a contract for a bidder to remove snow in the downtown, at City facilities, municipal parking lots, and along safe routes to school. Scott's Landscaping of Allegan was the lowest responsible bidder.

Taxes - Winter taxes were mailed out this week along with the first edition of the City's newsletter. The newsletter is another way to inform the community about what's happening with City Government.

Union Street Boat Launch Parking - Tuesday, myself and the Director of Public Works met with Joe Milaukas about our lease agreement on Union Street north of Blue Star Highway. It was great to meet with Mr. Milaukas and his son to discuss their expectations about the parking lot lease. The City will be

installing new signage next year to update the old worn out signage. We will also be aligning the parking blocks and work at keeping the grounds litter free.

BRA Orientation - Wednesday, was an orientation for the new councilman about the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

DDA Sign - I had a meeting to discuss the Downtown Development Authority sign design for the intersection of Center and Blue Star Highway. The design is very close to being approved by the DDA. They are aiming for a spring completion of the project.

200 Blue Star - Thursday, I met with the developer working on the 200 Blue Star site.

Engineering Projects - From that meeting I went into a meeting with Prein and Newhof to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects. We spent a lot of time talking about utility needs in the Felker's Neighborhood. We also talked about the rebidding of the water main projects for the special assessment districts that have already been established. The final key item we talked about was the paving of Union Street in the upcoming year and the repair to Campbell Road to stop the water weeping out of the hill.

Flood Insurance Rate Mapping - From that meeting I drove to Allegan to learn about the new Flood Insurance Rate Mapping and the required updates to the ordinance and the requirement to add a floodplain review to our site plan review process.

DPW Position - Friday morning started out with the first of two interviews to replace a DPW position. The next interview will be next Thursday and we will have two good candidates to choose from. FYI, I've formalized the interview process with prepared questions and an interview panel. The process ensures that we have an open and objective process with the intent of seeking out the best qualified applicants.

DDA - Late Friday morning I had a DDA executive meeting to chat about the organization of the authority and how the City can help the DDA.

BRA applicant - Finally, Friday afternoon, I had a meeting with an applicant for the Brownfield Authority. I believe this applicant can be a good addition to the Brownfield team. The authority currently has five members and there was a request to add additional members.

Gingerbread - The winner of the gingerbread house contest will be announced next week. If you haven't stopped by City Hall to see the creative confections, you have a week left.

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

Rich LaBombard

City Manager