



Memorandum

Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor Atchison and Albion City Council
FROM: Darwin D. P. McClary, City Manager
DATE: February 3, 2020
RE: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

NORTH CLARK STREET MTEDF CATEGORY A GRANT

As council is aware, MDOT has awarded the city a \$340,000 grant to complete the reconstruction of a substantial portion of North Clark Street. The MTEDF grant agreement will be presented to council for approval once it is received. It was not necessary to submit the direct grant agreement to city council.

KALAMAZOO RIVER IMPROVEMENT FUNDING

I met with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) a couple weeks ago to discuss the \$25 million in lawsuit settlement funding for Kalamazoo River improvements and potential projects. The MDNR has requested that the city submit information for possible funding for dam removal and dam restoration feasibility studies for one or all five of the dams, and we are gathering information.

MEETING WITH MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

Mayor Atchison and I met with Marshall Public Schools Superintendent Davis on January 27 to discuss the rumors about the school debt millage equalization. Dr. Davis explained that the school district is simply looking at all available options for keeping debt millage rates low for all school district taxpayers and has made no decision on the matter. We shared with Dr. Davis our desire that the deliberative process remain open, transparent, and engaging for Albion residents. We sincerely appreciate Dr. Davis' willingness to meet with us to discuss this important issue.

MEETING WITH SHERIDAN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Mayor Atchison and I met with Sheridan Township Supervisor Porter, Fire Chief Lohrke, and others to discuss the economic impact of the proposed solar energy farms that are planned for the township. A total of 8,000 acres is slated for solar panel installation, and the project is expected to offer considerable economic benefits to the city and township as a result of the job creation and long-term land leases from this project.

iCOMPASS LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

City Clerk Domingo and I participated in a project kick-off meeting for the iCompass legislative management system to begin set up of the new system. Key staff and board and commission members will be trained on the new system, and we anticipate going live with the system sometime in April.

FOOD HUB DISTRIBUTION

I would like to thank Councilor Smith for inviting me to visit the Food Hub and watch the volunteers unload the food truck and sort food for distribution. The Food Hub operations are impressive, and the number of volunteers helping with food distribution is amazing!

RENTAL CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION PROGRAM STUDY SESSION

A city council study session has been scheduled for Monday, February 10, at 6:00 PM, at the Ludington Center to discuss the proposed rental certification and inspection program. We encourage landlords, tenants, and all other interested citizens to attend to participate in this important discussion.

ALBION COLLEGE MLK JR. CONVOCATION AND RECEPTION

I attended the Albion College Martin Luther King, Jr., Day reception at the Ludington Center and convocation at the Bohm Theater on January 28. The reception and convocation were a fitting tribute to the wonderful legacy that Martin Luther King has left for our country and the world.

PRECINCT 1 TOWN HALL MEETING

At the invitation of Councilor Clark, I attended the Precinct 1 town hall meeting on January 30. The town hall meeting was well attended, and I was happy to be able to answer questions regarding the Sidewalk Program Fund review work.

STAFFING

As requested by the Mayor, attached is a spreadsheet providing a summary of the status of position vacancies within the city government.

CITY MANAGER EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS

To provide greater opportunity for citizens, business owners, and organizations to be able to meet with me and discuss their important ideas and concerns, I am scheduling extended office hours so that the public can meet with me after regular city hall business hours. My extended office hours will be held every Thursday from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM by appointment. Anyone



wishing to meet with me after hours can call my office at 517-629-7172 or e-mail me at dmclary@cityofalbionmi.gov to schedule a time. Please contact my office by noon the day before so that we can make sure to accommodate requests.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

For the information of city council, the following items are in the queue for city council consideration over the next few council meetings (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Michigan Transportation Economic Development Category A grant agreement
- City of Albion Downtown OPRA District Establishment and Tax Abatement Applications
- City of Albion Downtown Brownfields Districts
- Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance and Program
- Solid Waste Collection Contract
- IT Services Contract
- Sidewalk Program Fund Utilization
- Holland Park Sidewalk Improvement Project
- City Hall Closures for Document Management/Purge
- Betty Butterfield Request to Purchase City Property
- Project Rising Tide Final Report Presentation
- Memorandum of Understanding with Calhoun County Land Bank Authority – Union Steel Demolition
- Sidewalk Café Ordinance Amendment

