Mayor's October Report

Police Report: There were 104 hours of Police support. Most of the time was devoted to traffic control radar resulting in no tickets or warnings. There was a welfare check where a resident left a car running with all the belongings remaining in the car. The resident was unaware of what he had done and was grateful to the police. There was a complaint of loud music and the residents turned it down. There was a shoplifting incident at Party Mart. The police responded to multiple residents’ requests for a dog situation on Deerfield.

I have spent most of my time on a few properties. We had multiple complaints about the Deerfield property. The complaints covered property upkeep, vicious dogs, and neglect. I consulted the appropriate council members and Steve Teaford. Some of the complaints fell under our jurisdiction and others did not. The property’s upkeep has improved and Steve will continue to monitor the situation.

I spent considerable time dealing with the Signature Entrance at Westport and Ambridge. The daughter of the property owner called and in a “spirited” conversation she notified me that she wanted us to maintain her property in perpetuity or she was going to have the signature entrance torn down. She stated that it was illegally placed within their property boundaries rather than the right-of-way or utility easements. I began a search of the City files to locate pertinent documents from 2010.

Unfortunately, I was only able to locate a 3” X 4” plat of the entrance. . Lisa helped me create a LOJIC map for said property and I also reached out to my contact at KDOT and she sent me a detailed map. I had the small plat enlarged to 8 ½ by 11 and the highway department map printed at the Fedex store. Both maps clearly showed that Ms. Palmer was correct and the structure was within her mother’s property boundary. I then contacted the landscape architect firm who had performed the work for the City. After several phone calls to the firm, the owner called me back and he had a complete digital file with all the documentation.

I want to commend Lou Phillips, former Mayor, and Foster Haunz, former City Attorney, who had “dotted the i’s and crossed the t’s”. They had the homeowner sign an agreement that gave the City the rights to the property where the structure is located. It also stated that the City was only required to maintain the structure and surrounding vegetation. I made a copy of the signed document and placed it in our files. I also made a copy of the map of what needs to be maintained and took it to Kate Greer so she could share it with Adam Vogelsang. I then notified Ms. Palmer that we would abide by the 2010 agreement. She requested a copy of the signed agreement and I sent it to her. She has not contacted us since I sent her the documents.

Looking through the files, started me thinking about our current filing system and how archaic it is. I realized that we too could create digital files using the high speed scanner in the 110 suite. Starting in December and going through February (during our slow time), I am going to work with Lisa to begin scanning in the files. Starting with the A’s, I will scan in one file at a time which will be emailed to Lisa. She will then label the file with the correct tile. When we finish each letter of the alphabet, we will then create a zip file for that letter so we don’t use up too much computer space. The beauty of this approach is we will have a digitalized and searchable directory for the City files. We will also back up the digitalized files on a flash drive and of course the files are saved in the cloud. The beauty of this approach is it is simple and will not involve any cost to the City. It should make it easier for future administrations to find records.

I also continued to work with Rick Grismer, from LG&E, on the vegetation and tree program. Kate will go into more detail in her report. I appreciate he and his crews going the extra mile and removing the downed pole from the Green. They cut it up and hauled it off on October 2, 2020.

I have been in contact with the auditors and we sent them an updated June 30,2020 balance sheet with the CD income recorded. I am not sure when they will be coming into the office since they are running about 5 weeks behind schedule compared to prior years.

Finally, we have been furiously collecting and depositing tax monies. We have had numerous residents call in and tell us how pleased they are with the 45% discount. Many of the residents who had never actually seen their tax bill since it previously was only sent to their mortgage holders had no idea that we gave such a big discount. There has been a little confusion from sending all of our residents bills. Those who have called in liked our explanation and having an actual copy of the bill. I think we will follow the same procedure next year.