



April 15, 2016

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Next meeting: None

The following report has been prepared to provide you with an update on current issues or projects in progress:

Downtown Parking

The good news is that people are parking downtown! The increase in storefronts and the investments building owners have made to the second and third floor apartments. Two weeks ago the city received several complaints about parking on the downtown streets so our police department studied the daily parking trends to better understand how often parked cars were in violation of the 3 hour on-street limit. After the four day study they found that a relatively small number of cars exceeded the 3 hour regulations. However, it was also obvious that some employees, delivery vehicles and residents were regularly parked in prime parking spaces.

Public Safety Director Steve Grinnwald and Deputy Chief Jarrid Bradford reviewed the findings with the Chamber of Commerce at a meeting on Wednesday night and discussed a number of options that could enhance parking opportunities for customers visiting our downtown. At the end of the meeting the group decided to pursue the following:

- Communicate with downtown business owners, employees, and residents of the downtown parking rules and the need to keep parking spaces open to customers. The Chamber will take the lead on this item
- Development of a brochure that outlines the parking in the downtown to be passed out to people by downtown merchants when parking issues arise. The Chamber will take the lead on this item
- Putting the above mentioned brochure as well as detailed parking information on the City of Dowagiac and Chamber of Commerce websites as well as social media letting people know the rules and locations of parking in the downtown.
- The need for signs letting visitors to the downtown know the location of unlimited parking areas within the downtown. The Police Department and Chamber will continue to work on this item together.

- Identifying and contacting chronic/repeat violators of the downtown parking rules and making sure they are aware of the rules and provide options on where they can park to follow the rules and help their fellow downtown merchants. The Police Department will follow up on this item.
- Increased enforcement of violations of downtown parking rules in conjunction with educating the public on the rules and where they can park. The Police Department will work on this item.
- It is always good when organizations and the police work together to identify problems and work jointly to address them

New K-9 Partner for Police Department

Last summer the Dowagiac Police K-9 partner Cessy retired after a long career with the department. The department has completed the process of picking the handler for the new K-9. Officer Kevin Roman was selected to be the department's next K-9 Handler.

This week the department viewed several dogs from the kennel and picked out our new K-9 partner!!! Officer Roman was able to interact with several dogs and watch them go through several exercises as well as bond with them. Public Safety Director Grinnwald reports that, "We are happy to announce that we chose "Tole" (pronounced toe-lee) as our new K-9. Tole is a 3 year old German Shephard who loves to play but also has a serious side to him."



Tole will now begin pre-service training for 8 weeks working with the kennel. During that time Officer Roman will be able to observe his progress and continue to bond with him. In mid-June he will attend a 5 week training course where he and Tole will learn how to work with each other and build trust and commitment with each other. Once that training is complete Officer Roman and Tole will begin serving the City of Dowagiac and Cass County as a team.

A special “thank you” goes to the Stark’s Family (Stark’s Family Funeral Homes). They have offered an extremely generous donation to fund the K-9 team for the Dowagiac Police Department. Their commitment to this community and this team is greatly appreciated. With the help of the Stark’s Family and their commitment to giving, the Police Department will be able to provide this important service to the citizens of Dowagiac.

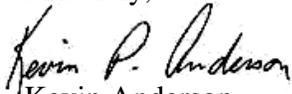
Airport Terminal

The airport terminal building bid opening is Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Assuming that favorable bids are received, we look forward to completing construction during the 2016 construction season.

NARCAN Use

NARCAN (Naloxone) is designed to block the effects of an Opioid based overdose and is carried by several departments throughout the state. Officers of the Dowagiac Police Department were trained in how to administer NARCAN and began carrying it in December of 2015. On April 6, 2016 an officer of the Dowagiac Police Department successfully used NARCAN to save the life of a Dowagiac resident.

Sincerely,


Kevin Anderson
City Manager