



June 17, 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:

Airport Bids

Bid opening for the airport terminal building took place on Thursday afternoon. The bids were \$54,000 less than the original bid with a low bid of \$587,790.05. The engineering firm has reviewed the bids and finds that there is nothing in error. The city's share of this cost will be 5% with the remaining being funded through MDOT aeronautic funding sources. A recommendation for approval of this project will be on the July 18 City Council meeting. It is important that at least \$100,000 worth of work is completed and build by early September or a portion of the grant funding will expire.

Entryway Corridor Improvement Project

After many months of planning and design, bids are being sought for a project that will upgrade the entryway corridors into downtown Dowagiac. Construction is expected to begin in late July or early August, with completion expected by late fall this year.

Included in the plans is the redevelopment and landscaping of the Commercial St. /West Division St. intersection, the City parking lots on the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and West Division St. and the City parking lot on the corner of Front and West Division Streets.

The property on the corner of Commercial St. and New York Avenue, that was formerly occupied by the Westrate, Thomas law offices and the Weaver Insurance Company, will be developed into a public plaza and parking area. When all of the redevelopment is completed, downtown Dowagiac will see a net increase of over 35 new parking spots.

The Commercial Street upgrades are intended to slow traffic and make the area more pedestrian friendly.

On East Division Street the site of the former three story Round Oak warehouse will be landscaped and a provision for appropriate art work will be created.

Front Street from Division Street north to Prairie Ronde Street is having a number of old and diseased trees removed and the entire corridor will be replanted with young disease resistant varieties of trees.

The commitment to improve and enhance the downtown corridor has been taking place for several years and much work has already been completed; most notably the creation of the Dowagiac Area History Museum, the demolition of the Round Oak warehouse, the installation of more decorative light fixtures along West Division Street that match those already in the City center and the installation of way finding signs.

We are looking forward to having bids ready for Council action at the 1st meeting of July.

Russom Park – Little League

Rose Scherr, Assistant City Manager, and I met with representatives of the Dowagiac area Little League today to discuss and plan for future improvements that the league hopes to make in the short-term and long-term. They are planning to continue making substantial improvements to the baseball/softball fields, the concession stand, the walkways, expanding handicap parking areas, and working with the city's mowing contractor to improve the common areas around the baseball/softball fields.

The dedication of Little League volunteers often goes unnoticed in the community. The youth of this community are enriched because of their commitment to provide safe, supervised recreational opportunities that improves health and promotes teamwork and cooperation. These are valuable lessons that will last a lifetime. Thanks to all the volunteers that makes Little League a great program for kids.

Beckwith Concert Series –

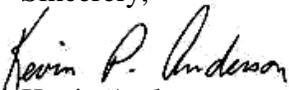
The tradition of free Thursday night concerts in the park continues next Thursday, June 23 with Erika Sherry. Her powerful vocals bring the best to Country and Pop favorites. All concerts begin at 7:30 pm.

Rick Herter exhibit ends June 25 –

Don't miss out on the last week of the special exhibit at the Dowagiac Area History Museum. The collection of artworks are on loan from local collections, the Pentagon and the United States Air Force collection.

Museum Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sincerely,



Kevin Anderson
City Manager