



November 26, 2014

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Upcoming Meetings: Museum Advisory Board – 12/1/14, 4:00 pm
Planning Commission – 12/1/14, 7:00 pm
Parks Commission – 12/3/14, 5:30 pm

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

A New Era in Business

The Business Center of Southwestern Michigan is a resource fostering the start-up of numerous small business and enticing longstanding business to relocate. The renovations to the facility are coming along nicely and will only add to the utilization of the facility and the reputation of all involved.



Holiday Hours

City Offices will be closed for the holiday 11/27 and 11/28.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrades

In October 2013 City Council authorized staff to continue working with engineers so that the City could participate in the MDEQ's State Revolving Fund (SRF). The SRF offers attractive financing terms for WWTP projects throughout the state. Unfortunately, construction bids have increased dramatically in the last 6 months and the engineers have indicated that costs will likely exceed their projections from last year. We've made the decision to split the two projects and reserve the right to reject all or one of the bids. The MDEQ will allow us to split the projects and remain in the program for the up to 3 years for the second project if necessary.

Project plans must be submitted by the end of December 2014 so that design approval can be secured and bids can be opened by mid-April 2015.

IBEW Negotiations

This week another round of negotiations took place with the IBEW for a contract that expired September 30, 2014 and was extended through December 31, 2014. An agreement was not reached and the next meeting has been scheduled for December 8, 2014.

Small Business Saturday – November, 29

Think big this Saturday and shop small. Small businesses are the heartbeat of Dowagiac. Collectively, these companies breathe life into our community. Dowagiac features unique specialty shops, vibrant fine and casual dining and local entertainment events. Gift cards and certificates are great for service too. As the holiday shopping season begins – shop local first.

Dowagiac Area History Museum event - December 3, 6:30 pm

The last lecture of the fall series will be Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. Museum Director, Steve Arseneau will conduct “Round Oak Workers and Their Homers.” We will explore the lives of the men who created the stoves that helped build Dowagiac into a leader of the stove industry. Round Oak’s workforce impacted Dowagiac significantly throughout its 75-year history and this program will look into the workers and some of the ‘homers’ they created. To find out what a ‘homer’ is, come to the program! This program is free for members and under 18, \$5 for non-members.

Dowagiac Christmas Celebrations

Wednesday, December 3

5:30 pm - Farr Park Borgess Tree of Love Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 5

6:00 pm – Enjoy hot chocolate and sweet delights from street vendors on Front Street.

6:15 – 7:00 pm – Tree lighting ceremony, pre-parade entertainment and community caroling at Beckwith Park

7:00 pm – Candle-light parade, Main and Front Streets

Workshop

Several significant planning projects are under way and it is important to review the draft plans and hear the public input that is being received while plans are under development. Let’s plan of a “mini-workshop” in December to discuss the park concepts, park master plan and Downtown Master Plan process. A lot can be accomplished with a 2 hour planning session on Friday, December 19 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Fire Station.

Do you “Like” Dowagiac Michigan?

We have a goal. The number of people who “Like” us on Facebook is steadily growing and we would “Like” for 1,000 people to “Like” Dowagiac on Facebook - so, we are having a party promotion.

You can have it all... Candle-light parade, friends, family, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, front row access and HEAT! Would you “Like” to enjoy the Candlelight parade in style? Help the Dowagiac Facebook page reach 1000 friends.

“Like” and follow facebook.com/dowagiadmichigan or if you already follow the page, invite your friends to “Like” us and you will be entered in in a drawing to win a parade party. You and 15 guests will enjoy the Candle-light parade from the main floor of the new James E. Snow Professional Building, at 302 Front Street.

A grand parade with front row seats for family and friends, hot chocolate and goodies, and a personal warming station... Who wouldn’t “Like” that?

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson

City Manager