



April 11, 2014

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

City Meetings: City Council, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Calendar: Easter Eggstravaganza, April 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.-Beckwith Park
Good Friday, April 18 – City Offices Closed
Spring Clean-Up Week – April 21-25

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

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

Fire Officer Class Graduation

The City of Dowagiac Fire Department is an integral part of the training and development of firefighters in Cass County. We are fortunate that Captain Mike Mattix is certified to train firefighters and the City's fire facility is well equipped for classes. This week Mike shared the following press release that outlines the training necessary for firefighters to safely and professionally respond when a fire call is made:

“Twelve Cass County Firefighters have been in class since October 2013, diligently studying and working on the skills necessary to become fire officers. The Dowagiac Fire Department is acting as host and classroom for these firefighters to participate in the 168 hours of classroom training.

The road to becoming a certified Fire Officer in the State of Michigan starts with the qualifications. The student must be eighteen years of age or older. Must be a member of an organized Michigan Fire Department. Needs to have completed three years of service on a fire department before the first class session. The candidate must hold a Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Fire Fighter I & II Certificate.

If qualifications are met the student starts by taking the first of four prerequisite classes. Firefighting Strategies and Tactics encompass the first 40 hours. The students learn the skills needed to lead a group of firefighters on the emergency scene.

Next, Incident Safety Officer gives the student the skills to act as a safety officer on an incident scene, working as a liaison to the incident commander. This class is 16 hours in length.

All officers act as an instructor to the firefighters that they lead, so Educational Mythology is next. This class helps provide the students a basic understanding of the teaching/learning process. Another 16 hours of Instruction.

The last of these prerequisite classes is NIMS - Incident Command Systems for the Fire Services. Participants gain the skills to help them function in overall participation and management of an incident. An additional 16 hours for this course.

The final course that these students face is Company Officer. The students receive 80 hours of instruction on the management of fire service personnel. Subjects covered are, supervision, administration, budgeting, and office correspondence. Ending with a 100 question final exam.

Once these firefighters graduate, they will be prepared to take on leadership roles within their departments and provide professional leadership for the fire service. This not only improves customer service, but promotes fire fighter safety and is compliant with professional standards and safety requirements.”

We appreciate the willingness of all firefighters who dedicate themselves to being prepared to respond when an emergency arises.

Economic Development Annual Report

The annual reports of City departments continue this week with Economic Development. Here are highlights from Cindy LaGrow’s report:

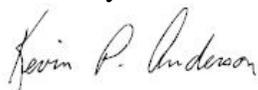
2013 New Business/Expansion of Business

- Creative Foam 10 jobs
- Health Clinic in Dowagiac (Dental Clinic) 20 jobs \$2,822,000
- Mennel Milling 3 jobs
- Pro Components Dowagiac 2 jobs
- Shoebox Bookkeeping Dowagiac 1 job

Goals for 2014

- Meet with all industrial companies in the city through the Business Watch program.
- Meet with the medical establishments in the city.
- Meet with partner agencies to improve the economic development tools and access for our businesses.
- Continue to aggressively market industrial and commercial development opportunities.
- Seek out grants for infrastructure improvements.
- Serve as the City representative with Connect Michigan to further the broadband accessibility in the city for business/economic development purposes.
- Continue our network, contact and relationship with partner agencies in the State and Federal levels.
- Work with the Dowagiac Union Schools to provide manufacturing knowledge to their students and parents during the 2013-2014 school year.
- Serve as the City lead for Michiana Partnership.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson
City Manager