



July 10, 2015

Mayor Donald D. Lyons  
City Council Members

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:

Upcoming Meetings: Council - July 13, 7:00 pm

### **Old Grey Demolition**

This week we have been able to have speak with the State regarding the next steps that need to be taken to proceed with demolition as quickly as possible. The only item the city needs to do prior to receiving a grant agreement from the state is to conduct an asbestos survey. An agreement with Wightman was signed yesterday and we expect the report within the next couple of weeks.



There are no special bidding requirements other than the competitive bidding process that is spelled out in City Code. Specifications and notices are being drafted and we expect to be receiving bids for Council action in mid to late August. Staff will continue to move forward with the goal of demolition taking place yet this year. The unknown is the availability of contractors for a demolition project of this size.



### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator**

At the end of May the operator in charge of the WWTP retired. No one with the full licenses required by the state to operate the plant was available so we contracted with the City of Niles to provide operational leadership while we advertised for a person with full credentials. I'm pleased to report that we were able to hire an experienced, licensed operator who will begin work on July 22. Bill Stevens will come to us with nearly 3 decades of operating wastewater facilities in both the public and private sectors and has experienced running a plant during the course of major renovations. Since we are about to embark on over \$2 million of capital improvements over the next 14 months this experience should prove very beneficial to our operations and our community.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project**

The preconstruction meeting for the WWTP improvement project will take place on June 21. At that point we should be getting the full construction schedule.

Over the past several months we have been in discussion with the Sister Lakes Area Utility Authority (SLAUA) regarding the potential of SLAUA prepaying their share of the construction costs for the improvements. Over the past 20 years they have been diligent in setting aside reserves so that borrowing costs could be minimized when improvements to their facilities are required. Last SLAUA voted to move forward with prepayment. The prepayment will be based on the last 5 years usage data. An agreement will be drafted for the July 27 Council meeting.

### **Summer in the City - July 16, 17, 18, 19**

Don't miss out on any of the fun! It all starts Thursday night at 5 pm with 50 hours of music, 45 retail vendors, sidewalk sales, games, animals, dance, art, princesses, crafts, flea-market, roaming street performers and much more.

### **Main & Pennsylvania**

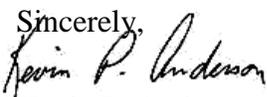
#### **Public Parking**

What a difference a few days makes. Paving crews completed the final coat on of the new lot Friday and it was ready for use this week. Neighbors are already noticing less traffic congestion and more foot traffic.



### **Rezoning of the 500 block of Prairie Ronde**

On Monday the Planning Commission reviewed plans for a proposed new building for the Michiana Church of God to be located at the southeast corner of Prairie Ronde and East Railroad. The property is the former Securit Metal Products. Planning Commission recommended approval of the zoning, special use, and site plan. City Council will consider the Planning Commission recommendation through a proposed amendment to the zoning map. The first reading of the ordinance will be at the Monday, July 13 Council meeting.

Sincerely,  
  
Kevin P. Anderson  
City Manager