



January 17, 2025

To: Mayor Mike Topliff and City Council Members
From: City Administrator Sam Anselm
Re: Weekly Update

Please see below for this week's update.

Administration

City Administrator

- The first review of applications for the police chief position will occur next week.

Community Services

Parks & Recreation

- Staff were able to complete a deep cleaning of the sports complex during the winter weather.
- Despite the weather, the department was still able to host 34 youth basketball games for its second session season last week.
- A big thank you to the electric department and Facilities Manager Jay Martin for their work in installing brighter lights at the complex. Work is not yet complete but is well underway.
- Ongoing registrations include adult volleyball (Winter session 1) and adult basketball (winter league). Registration for both runs until early February.

WP Public Library

- Final 2024 circulation numbers reflect a significant increase in library usage in the community:
 - Total circulation: 130,236 (19.46% increase over 2023)
 - New patron accounts: 1,171 (27.15% increase)
 - Program attendance: 6,211 (58.94% increase)
- These increases can be attributed to a number of factors, including increased social media engagement, a greater variety of programming for all ages, the growing popularity of the summer reading program, and the overall efforts of Manager Greg Carter and the library staff.
- The Library Board met on Monday and discussed the meeting room policy.

WP Civic Center

- Some notable events occurring in the building in the next two weeks include MSU-WP basketball on January 15 (7 pm) and January 23 (5 pm), and the Ozark Marketing Bridal & Family Expo on January 25 from 9 am to 2 pm.
- Although most tour routes are set, Civic Center Manager Tony Abbruzzo is working to find some prominent events for 2025 and beyond for the building. Tony is also working on finding new ticketing agencies that serve smaller venues such as the civic center.

WP Tourism/Welcome Center

- The Tourism Advisory Board met on January 16. A recap of 2024 was presented.

Facilities/Grounds

- The sewer line and lift pump for the new breakroom at city hall was scheduled to be installed by the end of this week.
- The installation of new, brighter lights is underway at the sports complex.
- A new HVAC system has been installed in the maintenance shop.

Fire

Last Week's Activities:

- 6 EMS incidents. (Medical calls, EMS lift Assist, Lock-in)
- 3 Structure related calls. (3-Fire alarms)
- 1 Arcing shorted electrical equipment.
- 1 Defective elevator.
- 1 Smoke scare/odor of smoke.
- 2 Cover assignment/standby.
- Staffed stations for the weather event. One additional person from 1900-0700 Thursday night and two additional from 0700-1900 on Friday. This eliminated multi truck and off duty responses to incidents for the allotted time frame when the roads were the worst. None of the responses during this time were weather related.
- Chief Sterner and Assistant Chief Cormier traveled to Ferrara in Holden, LA. The paperwork on the 100-foot platform was completed and by getting it completed, we moved ahead of 21 trucks on the building assembly line. Hopefully it will speed up the build time by a few months.
- 7 burn permits were issued. 1 day of no burning.
- Apparatus Update: 4615 was removed from service on Saturday for a check engine light and alarm. Will be taken to the shop on Monday
- 24 Hours of shift PTO taken, covered by full-time/part-time.

Planning

- Planning staff are working through grant opportunities from SEMA/FEMA related to the November flood incident, as well as other newly released disaster mitigation funds. Shawn and Kurt are attending the West Plains briefing Jan. 14 and we are working with SCOCOG to

submit a Notice of Interest for potential stormwater/flood mitigation projects. NOIs are due Feb. 7.

- City staff are reviewing stormwater issues at Cass and Washington next to the West Plains Bike Shop. Work will be done to reduce water flow to alleviate issues for any future design plans the West Plains Downtown Revitalization board has to improve the former alleyway. WPDR received a grant to activate the pocket parks and plan to begin work in the spring.

Police

- Members attended the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety Meeting at Troop G on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.
- The Department Staff is going through re-certification of CPR Classes conducted by Officer Brent Keepes. Several classes have already been conducted and will continue until all Staff have been re-certified.
- Supervisory staff attended a training session on the risks and pitfalls of the Missouri Police Bill of Rights on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.
- On January 23rd, command staff attended the second annual multi-agency emergency operations planning session for the R-7 school district held at the library.
- The Drug Task Force meeting for executive staff will be held in Cabool on January 23rd.

Transportation

- Street crews continued to work on the restrooms for the transportation department, the Grace Ave. drainage project, and continued working on the street sign replacement and road patching lists.

Utilities

- This week, utilities administration had an inspection at the generation site and worked with Heartland Engineering on the bid opening for the Southern Hills sewer relocation. Additionally, we assisted with interviews for the meter reader, utilities meter technician, and sanitation positions. The power outage map was released internally to the crews, and we held a meeting with the Transportation Department regarding snow removal for City parking lots.
- The electric crews completed the lighting upgrade at the sports complex and began removing Christmas lights. On Wednesday, an outage affecting 25 residents in Quail Run occurred due to a squirrel, which crews quickly resolved. On Thursday night, the crews conducted a planned outage to replace fusing and dead ends on a junction pole, requiring one circuit from the Second Street Substation to be de-energized for safety during the pole upgrade. Additionally, crews completed a walkthrough for the bore associated with the overpass project and the metering change at the Conservation Department.
- The water department assisted a plumber in digging a trench for the sewer line for the remodel project at City Hall and completed various service orders.
- The sewer department focused on addressing trouble calls throughout the week.

- Last week, the Sanitation Department transported 150 tons of refuse to the transfer station, bringing the cumulative total to 422 tons. Over-the-road drivers delivered 18 loads of refuse to the Hartville Landfill.