

# CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

September 10, 2010

The budget work session last Tuesday went very well and staff was able to get Council direction on a number of key budgetary issues. I also appreciated the fact that the Council worked very well to express their individual views and priorities as well as listening to alternative views expressed during the meeting. Staff is now in the process of making a number of changes to the preliminary budget as discussed at the meeting. By the end of this month, staff should have a proposed 2011 Budget that is balanced and ready for the Council's consideration. There will most likely be a number of additional changes to the budget, as each Council member will have a number of opportunities to offer further ideas and suggestions.

One of the topics discussed at the meeting was using the \$120,000 in the Recreation Fund to finance several capital improvements in the City's parks system. The Council discussed the possibility of using these funds for restroom improvements or playground equipment. Staff is in the process of evaluating the City's restroom facilities and will provide a follow up report to the Council on what improvements need to be made. Today, Corey Delikat and I toured Shane Park to view the possible site for new playground equipment. There appears to be a real need for this equipment, and I am convinced that it would be heavily utilized if installed. I also wanted to mention that there is a property owner in the Shane Park area who has started a fund-raising campaign in honor of her deceased son. I will meet with her on Monday to discuss some possible joint funding of the playground equipment. Staff will provide a report to Council on both of these improvements in the next several weeks.

Please remember the several important meetings scheduled next week which include the Chamber presentation on Monday, on the waterfront improvements, by Studio Cascade. On Tuesday, the Utility Advisory Committee meeting will include a presentation on utility rates recommended for 2011, at 3:00 p.m. Also on Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m., is the Harbor Management Plan public meeting at Vern Burton Center.

Finally, I wanted to mention that this week I met with Jim Jones and Steve Burkett regarding possible City/County cooperative efforts. We agreed that following the election in November, we should move forward to establish a task force that would meet over a three to six month period to identify opportunities for interlocal cooperation. This task force would be responsible for assessing a full array of services where cooperation would be more efficient than each entity providing the services on their own. The task force will include one elected official and one staff member from each entity. Sometime next summer the Task Force would be expected to report on their recommendations prior to development of the 2012 Budget.

**- Kent Myers**