



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Burch and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

DATE: May 8, 2015

Rescind Tennis Court Project Authorization. Council member Sanders asked that this item be included on the agenda. This is an uncommon item so I thought that I would offer a bit of an explanation. The motion to rescind an action is permitted by Robert's Rules of Order. It is one of several ways that a question can be brought back for further attention and the only motion applicable in this particular circumstance. There is no time limit to bring a motion to rescind, any member of Council can make the motion, a second is required and amendments are permitted. Because advance notice is given, a simple majority vote is all that is needed to approve the motion. I have asked City Attorney Tom Hitch to attend Monday's meeting to offer assistance and advice regarding the process of considering this motion if needed.

Tennis Court History. We discovered an old file in our offices that provides some historical information regarding tennis courts. It appears that the courts in Bennett Park were originally built about 1940. They had fallen into serious disrepair and were rebuilt in 1980. At the time, the consulting engineer expressed the opinion that a life of about 25 to 30 years would be typical for tennis courts. The construction cost in 1980 was about \$52,000. It was paid for using funds the City received through the Federal Revenue Sharing program after an unsuccessful grant application was made to the DNR for the construction of a tennis facility on school property.

County Road Millage Agreement. I have previously reported to Council my efforts to work with County Road Commission manager Blair Ballou to draft

an agreement that would govern the distribution of County road millage funds to the City. He and I met yesterday with two other County officials and reached agreement on what I believe will be the final language, at least as far as content is concerned. I will be sending the agreement to City Attorney Hitch for his review as to form. I expect this to be presented to Council for action at its May 26 meeting. The effect of this agreement is to provide that nearly 100% of the funds raised in the City through the County road millage will remain with the City to use on its own street improvement projects.

Lincoln Street Dangerous Building. A dangerous building process was initiated several years ago regarding a house at 329 Lincoln Street that had been severely damaged by fire. The building board of appeals had authorized demolition of the property but we delayed action to allow mortgage liens held by a bank and, later, by Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to be removed. This has been a slow process. The bank lien was addressed some time ago. I received notification this week that a proposal for addressing the MSHDA lien as part of a proposed sale of the property has been accepted by the owner and MSHDA. I have spoken to the buyer in the past who has indicated his intent to demolish the house. I expect this eyesore will be cleaned up, then, in the near future.

Union Negotiations. A mediator's recommendation for settling the collective bargaining discussions with the police patrol unit has been accepted by the negotiating teams. We expect this to be presented for a vote of the membership in the near future and to be brought to Council for consideration at its May 26 meeting. We have received notification from the business agent for the union representing DPW and clerical employees of the desire to commence negotiations. We anticipate discussing strategy for these negotiations with Council on May 26.