



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greenlaw and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: March 19, 2013
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Recommended FY 2014 Budget Released - On March 12, the City Manager released his recommended [budget](#) to the City Council. Highlights include a proposed 3 cent real estate tax increase, bringing the rate to 77 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Also proposed is an allocation of \$26.12 million to the city school system, which is a \$1.2 million increase over last year's allocation. See the [transmittal letter](#) for an overview of the recommendations. Numerous Council budget [work sessions](#) will be held in the next few months, in which Council will review and propose changes. The budget is scheduled to be first read on April 23 and second read on May 14.

Motts Run Reservoir - [Motts Run Reservoir](#) opened for the season on Saturday, March 16. The reservoir will be open on weekends throughout the remainder of the month, and thereafter will begin the summer schedule of opening Thursday through Monday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through October. The Reservoir will once again offer fishing, trails, kayaking and canoeing options for nature enthusiasts.

Visitor Center - Public Facilities staff have installed shelving in the renovated space at the Visitor Center. Brochures and other items which were being stored off site have been delivered back to the Visitor Center and organized on the new shelving. The exterior wood repairs and painting will take place this spring.

Memorial Park Tennis Court - The lights for the [Memorial Park](#) tennis courts and timer have been repaired. Repairs to the lights at the old bicycle training area/basketball court, which have been dormant for years, have resulted in more evening illumination in that part of the park.

Space Utilization - Public Facilities is currently working with the Circuit Court staff in an effort to consolidate file storage from the second floor to the third floor of the Executive Plaza. Members of the Circuit Court staff have made good progress on the consolidation project and in identifying items to be discarded.

New K-9 Officer - Officer Lee Ridenour has been selected as the Police Department's next canine handler and he will receive his new partner by the end of March. The officer will attend K-9 training school with his dog April 8 through June 14 to become jointly certified in tracking, drug detection, and offender apprehension techniques. The funds to purchase the patrol canine were donated by the National Housing Trust/Hazel Hill Apartments as part of their ongoing initiative of partnering with law enforcement to address community concerns. The children who live in Hazel Hill Apartments will be included in the education process of the canine team by receiving progress updates and pictures during the training school term and a special visit and demonstration after graduation.

Phone System Upgrade for Social Services - The Department of Social Services has upgraded to a new Voice-over-IP (VoIP) phone system this year, replacing their failing system. Repairs for the old system were expensive because parts were no longer readily available. Information Technology and Businets, Inc. have worked in coordination with the state to install and configure the new Zultys system which was made operational on January 31. This new VoIP phone system is more flexible and easy to maintain. It provides features such as pooling of lines to reduce costs, voicemail, caller ID, built-in conference bridging, security encryption, auto-attendant menu customization, software control, and expandability.

Emergency Notification System - A Request for Proposals was released on December 7, 2012 for the purchase of an emergency notification system to replace the existing Reverse 911 system in the City's E-911 Center. The new and enhanced emergency notification system will allow the E-911 Center and other City departments to send notifications to the public via text, voice message and/or email. Three vendors submitted proposals and were invited to conduct demonstrations for the selection committee, which consisted of staff from the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments, Information Technology and the City Manager's Office. The selection committee met on February 6 and unanimously selected [Everbridge, Incorporated](#) as the winning vendor. Some features of the new system include:

- E-911 data can be updated and geo-verified against the City's GIS mapping information on demand.
- Street-based and radius-based map data is contained in the same database, allowing the City to send alerts using both types of filters simultaneously to fine tune notification areas.
- Annual cost includes unlimited minutes and unlimited users.
- Annual cost was the lowest of all three vendors.
- Weather Alert functionality is available.

Contract negotiations have been completed and implementation of the new system is scheduled to be completed by July 2013.