

**From:** Grayson Bottom

**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2012 10:42 AM

**To:** Gary Cooper; alberts239; Ken Smith; Michael McEachern (mmceachern1@cox.net); Rick Opitz; thegrbas@cox.net

**Subject:** City Council Update

Tammy and I attended the Summer Conference of CMAO this last week. That is the reason I am late in getting you the update. It was a very good conference that was well attended (over 200). I am on the Board of Directors along with Larry Stephens, City Manager of Edmond, and Matt Meuller, City Manager of Guthrie from the central part of the state. One accomplishment over the last year has been taking a lead role in the establishment of Master's Degree program in Public Administration at UCO. OU has had a Master's Degree program for several years. However, their program tends to focus on the state and federal level rather than the local level.

We will have a study session tomorrow evening beginning at 6:00 PM. We felt that considering the outcry about Pets and People that we should discuss what has and is being done to resolve the situation.

The first thing we will do is have a Public Hearing concerning the 2012 CDBG Grant projects. The operative word here is hearing. We are to receive comments, not discuss the comments. Over the last 24 years I have attended hundreds of these hearings in over 30 communities. In all that time I have not heard one member of the public make comment. Maybe this will be the time.

There no individual action items under the YMA agenda other than the Consent Agenda. Under the Consent agenda for the City Council there are several items related to the City of Piedmont. Of note is the agreement for dispatch services that doubles the amount they pay us each month. The other item of interest is the Mayor to sign a letter of support with National Park Service for Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance grant. This is grant for planning and design assistance provided by the National Park Service that will help us get ready for future grant funding opportunities through the U.S. Department of Interior.

The first four actions items relate to the 2011 and 2012 CDBG Grant. The project is to take two years of funding and continue improvements to Cedar between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to include some improvements to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> as well.

The final action item is to consider approving funding the purchase of exercise equipment as budgeted. The purchase is for \$75,264.00. We purpose to purchase commercial grade equipment that will last us for many years. We still lack some of the furniture items causing us to delay the Grand Opening. We anticipate everything being in place by the end of the month. Also, we have been able to craft new collective bargaining agreement with the firefighter's union. The highlights include an improved promotion policy and procedure that requires more time served in rank before being able to test for promotion, brings ranks more in line with job duties, eliminates the rank of Lieutenant, changes the title of shift commander to battalion chief, holds the line on benefits, and revamps the salary schedule in a manner that does not change the base pay each time there is a raise given.

We are also very close on the Police contract. I would like to ask you to approve both contracts during the first meeting in August.



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