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CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Happy Thanksgiving, here in the City of Connell I believe there is much to be thankful for. I am thankful for our Public Works staff who have had to manually operate our Pioneer Sewer Lift Station since Friday, I am thankful for our Police and Fire staff who with just a moment's notice are called into action to keep our residents safe, I am thankful that our recent audit was one of the best audits we have had thanks to the hard work of each of our staff. I hope you find many things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Here is what I have been working on since our last meeting:

- All employee breakfast meeting for open enrollment. Thank you Marissa and Jeri for the delicious breakfast.
- Along with Mayor Blackwell and PW Director Turner, met with staff from NFSD. Shared goals for 2017.
- Attended the monthly Chamber meeting, Police Chief Turner was a guest speaker and answered questions about his department.
- Along with PW Director Turner and Police Chief Turner, met with DOC for our monthly meeting. DOC staff provided us with a tour of their mail processing center.
- Attended the sizzling presentation by Fire Chief Schulte who provided a tour of the Fire Hall and answered questions regarding his department.
- Along with Building Clerk Joyner, met with Sally Mohr who formally worked for Benton-Franklin Council of Governments and is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to economic development.
- Along with Mayor Blackwell, Councilmember Minor and department heads, met with staff from the State Auditor's office for our exit conference.

Accountability Audit- the City is assessed on its management, use and safeguarding of public resources to ensure there is protection from misuses and misappropriation. The City was evaluated on: cost allocation plan, credit card user agreements, Police Dept. safeguarding of property and seized property reports, procurement, property purchase, third party cash receipting, and valid vendors. *In most areas audited, City operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The City also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas examined.*

Financial Statements Audit – the Auditors provide an opinion on whether the City’s financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable reporting requirements. *There were no uncorrected misstatements in the audited financial statements. There were no material misstatements in the financial statements corrected by management during the audit. There were no instances of noncompliance or other matters that were required to be reported under Governmental Auditing Standards.*

Levels of Reporting for an audit include:

Findings – report significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal controls; misappropriation; and material abuse or non-compliance. Findings are included in the audit report. ***There were no findings issued.***

Management Letters – communicate control deficiencies, non-compliance or abuse with a less-than –material effect on the financial statements or other issues with significance to the audit objectives. These are referenced in the audit report but not included. ***There was no management letter issued.***

Exit Items – address control deficiencies or non-compliance with laws or regulations that have an insignificant or immaterial effect, or errors with an immaterial effect on the financial statements. These are informally communicated to management. ***There were four exit items noted. Staff will work on formal written policies as recommended by the State Auditor’s office.***

This concluded our Financial and Accountability Audits for the year of 2013, 2014, and 2015. The audit The Auditor’s expressed their appreciation to City staff for their cooperation and assistance during the course of the audit.

- Attended the Wine and Brew Festival that was hosted by the Connell Chamber. I enjoyed visiting with many of the cottage businesses.

Here is what I have coming up:

- City Hall will be closing early on November 23rd at 2:00 pm and will be closed November 24th and 25th, have a great Thanksgiving.
- Don’t Forget
Connell University:
January 9, 2017 – Building/Planning Clerk Sterling Joyner –*Please plan on joining us.*
March 13, 2017 – Police Chief Chris Turner
May 8, 2017 - Public Works Director Larry Turner
July 11, 2017 – City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya