



# City of Seat Pleasant

*Interim City Manager*

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## Quarterly Report

July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021

- The office of the interim city manager has spent numerous hours conferring with LGIT and the city attorney on matters pertaining to the police investigation, personnel matters including charges of discrimination, terminations, suspensions, and reprimands. In cases to date, the legal teams have either requested or are preparing for dismissal of these cases.
- The city attorney has been consulted on the current state of SPICE and the other corporations created under its umbrella including the Seat Pleasant Arts, Culture and Technology, LLC, Seat Pleasant Housing Trust Fund, and the Seat Pleasant Economic Development Corporation (SPEDC). SPICE has requested the city to sign a release indemnifying the board prior to release all the remaining assets in the account. The city attorney is revising the document so that we can bring this matter to a close. The attorney has advised that pursuing litigation against the SPICE board could take at least two years before a ruling is received through the court system which is not a win-win situation. Attorney DeLoach should be prepared to update the city council the first week in October 2021.
- The Human Resources office has worked with the council to interview potential candidates for the permanent city manager position. The council has reached a decision to make an offer to one of the selected applicants. The offer should be submitted within the next few days.
- The office is working with the finance team and industrial bank to obtain the required documents to complete the reconciliations of all accounts. Now that the bank deposit details have been received from the city's general operating fund, the finance department should make some great headway in concluding the FY 2020 audit. The FY 2019 audit was finally competed and approved by the City Council. The city manager is preparing a response to the Office of Legislative Services to explain the delay in getting these audits completed and the continued requests for extensions. The delays are mostly related to the COVID -19 pandemic with numerous personnel in various agencies working remotely, the transition of the city's finance team, the delays in concluding the USDA reporting and financials, and the delays in completing the construction and the various setbacks related to the roof leaking, A/C disrepair on the third floor, elevator malfunction, and sewage back-ups. At last report these issues have all been resolved. The complete reopening of city hall is still delayed however, due to the recurrence of COVID-19 infection among staff and mold removal.

- The investigation concerning police misconduct is still on-going. The office of the city manager has requested an update from the State's Attorney office. Sensitivity training and an audit of all internal files and police body camera footage is being reviewed by an independent investigation firm.
- The city is in a much better financial condition than it was a year ago. This is partially due to the annual budget reduction of events and travel although that is beginning to open-up once again with in-person conferences at MML. Additionally, the finance office is working closely with the city manager's office to oversee expenditures. The purchase requisition system has been reinstated to ensure that there is sufficient back up documentation to support processing of payments.
- There has been a significant increase in the perpetrators found traveling through the city with illegal firearms which have been removed from the city streets and a reduction in 91% of carjackings in the city compared to an increase of 300% in the county according to SPPD statistics.
- The public engagement office was directed to work on obtaining cable stations through the city's franchise agreements with Comcast and Verizon. While time was spent on this task, it has not reached the point at this juncture where the city will be able to show live events in real time via cable stations. The department manager is currently working on this matter as a priority. The department is also working with a new vendor Civic-Plus and coordinating with the office of the city clerk and the new host of the city's website to bring to the residents a more user-friendly website.
- The grants manager has worked tirelessly with other leadership team staff to administer the ARP recovery funds for eligible projects including rental assistance, mortgage support, commercial businesses recovery to hire lost employees, and hazardous pay for employees who were on the front line as essential employees protecting the city and exposing themselves to the virus while performing routine and much needed services for the city.
- The office of the City Manager addressed on more than one occasion rumors and inuendoes related to budgetary expenditures, the line of credit, and investigations that are on-going just to name a few. Some of these rumors and inaccurate statements led to the withdrawal of the GSA Board of Public Works Agenda to approve the application. This item requested \$250,000 for the overruns in construction costs once again due to the pandemic and delays in receiving materials and the construction crews exposure to the virus which necessitated a 14-day quarantine. The city manager is still working to rectify this issue.
- The City Clerk's office is still responding to MPIA requests at record pace. The office continues to manage the payment and recovery of past due amounts owed by business owners for personal property taxes. The city is still pursuing potential litigation against those businesses who continue to remain in arrears with their respective payments.

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- The EJD Department is working on the repair of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Alley and has worked diligently to see that the streets are clean and that debris and yard-waste, tree removal, and vacant property is maintained.
- There has been an increase in complaints at some of the apartments which NCC is currently investigating and scheduling inspections.
- The Human Resources department has had to contend with numerous employee separations, workplace injury claims, unemployment claims, hiring, posting of available positions within the government, etc.

For specific details pertaining to each department, the reader is directed to review the various departmental reports which are attached for reference and can be reviewed by department on the departmental page on the city's website.