

Charlack Newsletter

Message from your Mayor:

November 2005

Just a few tidbits with one biggie (annexation)... We are going forward on the City Hall building project. We are still waiting for the architect to come up with the initial plans. After we receive the plans, we will begin looking for the proper ways to fund the construction. I am excited about this project and I think it will allow our City to continue to grow and be recognized. We've had great weather so far this year...let's hope it keeps up this way! Happy Valentine's day to all! (I haven't had a one page newsletter since I was an alderman! That scares me....it makes me think that February is going to be crazy!)

Election Filing: Candidate filing for the offices of Ward 1 Alderman and Ward 2 Alderman have closed. For Ward 1, the only person that filed was the incumbent, Alderman Chris Brun. He will run unopposed. There were 2 candidates that filed for the Ward 2 seat: Incumbent Alderman Chris Cordia and Mr. Dale Mabra. The general election is April 4th, 2006. Please make every effort to get to the polls and vote for the candidate you feel will best serve your City.

February 14th Board Meeting: As previously mentioned, the regularly scheduled February Board meeting will be moved from February 14th to February 7th, due to scheduling conflicts with members of the Board and myself. The Board meeting will be at City Hall at 7:00pm. Chief Palme will be handing out 3 awards of merit to three officers at this meeting. Officer Rob Leesman for performing CPR and saving the life of an individual and Officer Mike Shepard and Sgt Vince Delia for exposing a potentially dangerous gas leak before any explosions or fires occurred. Jobs WELL DONE!

Officer of the Month: Congratulations to Officer Mike Shepard for obtaining the Officer of the Month for January!

Yard Waste: Please remember that our contract with our trash hauler does not provide yard waste until April. If you have an abundance of yard waste, you will either have to wait until April or take it to a local yard waste disposal area, such as ORMI in North County. Our trash hauler will NOT pick up your yard waste if you set it out!

Annexation: Well, as I have in every newsletter, I will be honest and explain this topic and why I feel it needs to be revisited. By me bringing this back to the Board and our Community, it makes it seem like our previous research was not sufficient enough. I do not know if that is the case or not. What I do know and what I have learned since Charlack started this process 6 years ago, is that we do need to re-open the research and look at this again. I have talked with many "heavy hitters" in the area about this since we backed out last year. Folks such as land developers, attorneys, other Mayor's and St. Louis County representatives such as our County Executive Charlie Dooley. 100% of the people that I talked to felt that our withdrawal was a bad idea. It got me thinking about this once again. The reasons that we worked so hard before to obtain that area are the same reasons we need to make the effort to do it again.

With the efforts I have made to make our City "Development Ready," the developers, consultants, city planners and attorneys I have talked to all feel that we passed on an opportunity that we should NEVER have passed on. Our former Chief, Tony Umbertino and I worked countless hours on this process. Chief Umbertino did most of the legwork. We knocked on doors, we talked with St. Louis County, we had Public Hearings, etc. All of the work that was needed was done internally. I think we spent under \$200 for the whole process, which is quite amazing considering all of the things we did. There were many factors that made us come to the conclusion to withdraw. One of the biggest was the fact that we did not get the support we needed from the residents in that area. Basically, they did not want us. After much discussion, it was decided that if they did not want to be annexed, then the job of increasing the value of those properties would be too costly. My question is this, and this has been bothering me since we withdrew: We decided to annex an area that borders our town. We put in hundreds of hours. We had Public Hearings and the support of our own residents. Why should we decide to withdraw from a project that would benefit our city just because folks in that area did not want to be incorporated? **No one should determine what is best for our City except the residents who live in our City.** If we had the support of our residents, which we overwhelmingly did, we should have continued. I feel that we made a mistake by withdrawing. In every newsletter I have ever sent, I have told you the good with the bad. That was my pledge to you with the newsletters and with my election as Mayor. I have made it a point to do what I was elected to do and that is doing what is best for the City of Charlack. I was reluctant in my approval to withdraw. I feel that it was the right thing to do and I feel that while I am your Mayor, I will continue to do what I think is right. I apologize for the premature withdrawal and the confusion that I am now causing. It is my intention to once again look into revisiting this plan and when we get close to a point where we have what we need, then hold a Public Hearing with Charlack residents. More will follow.

Up & Coming: February 7th – Board Meeting – 7:00pm at City Hall
February 14th – Valentine's Day
February 28th – Work Session – 7:00pm at City Hall

Please Be Respectful of your Neighbors!

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