

Friends,

My intention with this communication is to establish a bi-weekly update from myself or potentially other City Council members updating the community to what was covered in our most recent City Council meeting, events happening around town and projects we are working on. This is **not** to replace the City Newsletter, City specific communications or other urgent or more time sensitive communications, but is intended to supplement these communications. So here it goes!

*Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting*

- We had a presentation from Mikki Droste on the proposed redevelopment of Jacklyn I, II, and III apartments with 28-44 affordable apartments. There is new ownership over the apartments and they are wanting to get financing to support upgrades needed on the apartments to meet green standards, kitchen upgrades and improvements to the common areas. So why are we involved? The government program that they are working on for funding requires that we make changes on how they will pay taxes. This will need to be approved prior to the new owners being able to make the final requests for governmental support. We will be discussing this in greater detail over the next two council meetings in September.
- Belding Housing Commission requested that we appoint Michael Baker to the vacant position on the Housing Commission, this was approved 5/0. Michael has recently been appointed to the Recreation Board as well, and comes with a lot of experience in public service. We all excited to have him as part of our community.
- We approved the use of Congress Street for a WATER BALL tournament as part of the Labor Day celebration, held on Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup>. I was reminded that this has not been part of Labor Day in years so it will be great to have this back. THIS IS A MUST TO SEE, so put it on your calendar. GO BELDING FD!
- DPW (Department of Public Works) requested approval to sell a surplus 1998 Dodge Truck that while it has lower miles has a frame that has rusted through making it not drivable. We approved this to go to public auction to liquidate.
- Back again this year was the request for a street use and noise ordinance suspension for the Belding Band Invitational at Rudness Field on Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>. This year it looks that there will be fourteen (14) bands in the competition. Approved 5/0...always a great event for our school and this brings business to our community.
- City Manager (John) covered that we continue to work on repaving streets and plan on being done with this year's projects by the end of September. We have a project under way to redo the basketball courts and a larger project to put a pathway and platform on the river in the Gathering Place, (Silk Mill property); you will see marker

flags on the lot. KMI is not making chlorine tablets any longer and we continue to push to make this permeant!!

- David Hodges, our Ionia County District One Commissioner gave us an update on what is happening with the Ionia County Road Commission and the process for selection of commissioners. You should be able to look at the County meeting notes for more detail.

## **FUN STUFF**

It's almost Labor Day!!!! This is in my opinion is the best holiday of the year. This event is intended for all of us with events for everyone. I ask that everyone has fun this year and take advantage of all the events and be safe. Yes, the Labor Day Committee did get approval to bring back the Beer Tent! Go to the Belding Labor Day Facebook page for more schedules and updates. Grand Marshalls are Jim and Jill Mason!!! 😊

For those who have not attended Beatnik Bazaar, you are missing out! This is a combination of a farm market and art fair with food! I tried the frozen chocolate dipped cheese cake, picked up some kettle corn and got a fall pillow. The next bazaar will be held on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

We are reviewing the electronic sign policy for the sign at City Hall and are looking to discuss it in our next meeting.

That's it for now... there is lots going on, so take advantage of our city and I look forward to seeing everyone around town on Labor Day weekend and at the Labor Day parade.

Enjoy!