

City Administrator Report

10/26/2020

Ted L. Agee

ITEP GRANT: Stephanie Brown from Chastain and Associates will be at the meeting to finalize the ITEP Grant application for submittal. There is an associated resolution for City Council to pass to accompany the application.

USDA/EPA GRANTS: The application for the USDA portion is complete and ready to submit. Based upon the median income levels of the City of Maroa and the limits provided by the USDA, Chastain and Associates now questions whether we will qualify for principal forgiveness at this stage. It is still the opinion of the USDA that we should proceed with the application process. If you remember, the USDA representative personally visited with me last winter to encourage us to enroll in the program. If we were to instead take the information we have and reconfigure it to proceed with an EPA application, the associated additional cost could approach an additional \$15,000.00 each for water and sewer projects. I do not believe this additional cost is in the best interest of the City currently. It is my recommendation the City Council authorizes Chastain and Associates to submit the application to the USDA only.

ICECF GRANT: I received confirmation today the City of Maroa received a grant for our clean energy project in the amount up to \$77,400. We will be discussing this further tonight.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS: I know there has been some public discussion concerning the operation of the Police Department telephone numbers, specifically the PD non-emergency phone number 217-794-5526. There are several issues I have discovered with the current system:

- This number has to be manually set by the PD to transfer to dispatch or duty cell when the PD office is unoccupied.
- This number also rings inside the City Hall office.
- The voice message used is the City's standard answering service and takes a considerable amount of time to reach the options.
- When this number is called and transferred to either dispatch or the duty cell, Caller ID does not function.

These are my recommendations for solutions:

- For non-emergency police matters, the public should be calling 217-424-1078. This is a direct line to Macon County Dispatch and Caller ID will be fully functional.
- 217-794-5526 should be a PD Administration number only and should not be tied into the City Hall system or answering service. This number should also transfer automatically to Macon County Dispatch when the PD Office is unoccupied.

ABM INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT: I met with ABM today to reign in the scope of the project to a level I feel the City could comfortably manage financially over the next 20 years. Our goal tonight is to find a general direction of the project scope we would like to focus on and develop the cost and payment structure associated with that scope. I anticipate Phase 1 to focus entirely on urgent need projects.