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The Performance Dashboard, a light agenda for October 3, and what's on the horizon.



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Dear neighbors,

I picked up some Northern Spy and Greening apples at the Farmer's Market this morning. As soon as I specified what I wanted, the vendor said "going to make a pie?" My California-based daughter-in-law can't get real pie apples where she lives, and every year, as October arrives, I think about how others make pie with Granny Smiths. We are so lucky to live here.

And while all the rain has been fine for the garden, I find it wears on me. The fifth rainiest September on record is not the weather I hoped for, especially after such a wet spring and summer.

Street millage on the ballot

The City will be hosting three (3) separate meetings on the ballot initiatives (the street and bridges millage and the street, bridges and sidewalk option). These meetings will be held on

- Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard
- Wednesday, Oct 12, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Clague Media Center, 2616 Nixon Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 18, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Forsythe Media Center, 1655 Newport Rd

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If you have questions about the millage, I hope you can make some of these translations. I plan to be at both the

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Wednesday, October 12th and Tuesday, October 18th meetings.

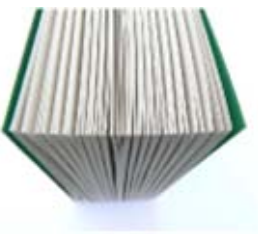
Have you seen the dashboard and almost-real-time financial reports on the City's website?

Coffee wakes some of us up

I hold office hours 7:30 to 9 am on Mondays at the Northside Grill.

While I'm there, I work on Council business, talk with whoever shows up, and learn some of the issues that affect you -- potholes, parks, schools, trash pickup, construction noise, zoning, City staffing and changes they like or don't like. Sometimes I even hear some praise for work the City has done!

The folks at the Northside put up with political talk early in the morning. If you see me there, please wave, and if you have time, please, join me for coffee and a chat.



These web pages were developed, in part, to respond to a State of Michigan mandate. However, they are also a natural progression from the City's Data Catalog. I was particularly intrigued by the following information, contained on the performance dashboard pages.

"Maintenance is funded from Weight and Gas Tax from the State of Michigan for the City's major and local streets. This funding has been declining over time. Capital is funded from Street Millage tax revenue and additional funding leveraged from State & Federal sources. Due to the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the City has seen an increase in this funding."

Here's the financial information ([link](#)) and here is the new performance dashboard ([link](#)).

On the agenda:

The current agenda for the Monday, October 3rd meeting is really light. Here's a [link](#) to the entire agenda.

Ordinances, First Reading

The Council may approve, on first reading, a request to rezone a lot nearly opposite the Produce Station to C1 (local business district) zoning from O (office) zoning. This specific request relates to permitting an already established use (as a medical marijuana dispensary). However, it also relates to a conflict with proposed use (as commercial) along this section of State Street. While

What am I reading?

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I spend a lot of time reading. I read about other communities, Lansing government, development and planning policy, transportation planning . . .

Here's my current and recent reading list:

A biography of **Elly Peterson: Mother of the Moderates**. You might not be as interested in political history as I am, but this book is worth the time. Elly Peterson was a Republican organizer who worked in Michigan. In 1964, she ran for US Congress -- and although she lost, she was the only female candidate in that era running as herself, not to take over a seat her husband had held. In 1982, she and dozens of prominent Republican women endorsed James Blanchard for Michigan Governor, rejecting the Republican candidate (and ERA / reproductive rights opponent) Richard Headlee. Reading this book, by UM graduate Sara Fitzgerald, is like taking a refresher course in political organizing.

not under consideration at the same meeting, there is a second request for rezoning adjacent to the Produce Station (for BierCamp, which makes and sells sausages). Because both sides of State Street in this area are zoned O(office), neither use would be permitted under current zoning.

And while it might seem reasonable to rezone these and other nearby parcels, zoning for commercial use doesn't fit with the current master plan for this area.

Resolutions

Two weeks ago I offered a Resolution of Intent on the Use and Administration of Street and Bridge Resurfacing and Reconstruction and Sidewalk Repair Millage Funds. The Council postponed voting on this resolution, as members of the Council wanted to be certain they understood all of the implications. Here's a [link](#) to the current text. This resolution spells out exactly how the City plans to use the millage dollars.

Council member Hohnke is offering a [resolution](#) that would allow the developer of City Place to alter the order of the initial work to ready the site on 5thAvenue for construction. It is Council member Hohnke's hope that, by changing the order of work, there will still be time to consider an amended PUD proposal. The resolution states, in part:

"The developer has indicated that a modification of the construction sequence would allow for adequate time to consider resubmitting the Heritage Row PUD project to the City. This would necessitate an amendment to the City Place Development Agreement which requires that the developer complete construction of water mains and storm sewers prior to any building permits being issued. The proposed amendment would allow the completion of this work during construction of the buildings which would give the developer the flexibility to delay some of the utility work until spring. The work would need to be completed prior to the issuance of any certificate of occupancy for the buildings, but the developer would still need to meet ordinance requirements for providing adequate fire protection to the site prior to the issuance of

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any building permits. Staff review has determined that a foundation-only permit could issue with the fire protection currently available on the site."

The Council will vote on whether to annex six separate parcels into the City from Scio Township. All of these parcels are near the dioxane bloom that's been spreading since the late 1980s. However, the City is pursuing annexation of township islands much more aggressively, and these annexations meet the goal of eliminating some of those township islands.

The Council may approve a two-year contract to supply cold patch (\$102,000 annual cost). Funds for this contract are budgeted within the Public Services, Field Operations, Major and Local Street funds, Water Supply Systems, Sewage Disposal and Storm Sewer systems for FY12.

Some ideas are so reasonable that even the State Legislature passes them. That's the case with the PACE PROGRAM. Here's a link to the program's information page. The Council will vote on a resolution that would establish an Energy Financing District and a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

The Council will be asked to add a working session (November 14th) to the calendar. At this time, I don't know what items will be included in the agenda for that work session.

As always, let me know if you have questions or concerns about any item on the agenda -- and for that matter, about other issues as they arise.

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Talking about the Budget

The Council could start some early discussions about the budget for next fiscal year, and begin to set priorities, at any time. Of course, Steve Powers, the new City Administrator, has only been on the job for two weeks. I know he's been meeting with people all over the community -- I've even seen him at two neighborhood meetings! -- and I expect he will need a little time to learn all the details of running the City. I hope that the Budget Committee will start discussing the Council retreat (often held in December) this month, so the Council members and staff can begin thinking about priorities and budget realities.



On the horizon

City Council will consider changes to the Percent for Art Ordinance on November 21st. Here is the [current text](#) of the ordinance revision, with proposed changes in **blue**.

If you have opinions about the ordinance and the proposed changes, please let me know. You may also want to let other members of Council know about your concerns.

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