

Joslin Cove – as reported by the Manistee News Advocate, the project is approved to begin again. The developer will invest nearly \$8,000,000 in completion of the project. There is \$918,000 of eligible Brownfield reimbursements to capture, over a 9-year period, from the “tax capture” during that period of time. The modified plan includes reimbursement for pump station upgrades and another related infrastructure for the City of Manistee, which does not need to be completed until the end of the project. The developer has 4 years (48 months) to complete the project, and will incur a 4% penalty per month beyond that period from reimbursements. In case of a default, the reimbursements cease. Councilmember Zielinski asked, and repeated the response, what the taxpayer liability was in case of non-completion – there is zero taxpayer liability. The developer receives reimbursement as they pay taxes on the property – so there is great incentive to complete the project. These Brownfield reimbursements are common for developers these days and provide assistance in developing contaminated, blighted, and historic sites into usable business and residential properties that will bring long term tax revenue to the municipalities. I look forward to the completion of this project that will enhance the view along our north corridor and provide housing for future growth.

Planning Commission – I attended the meeting last night and was impressed with the level of activity and interest in development in the City of Manistee. A great deal of time and energy has been invested by commission members, our planning department, and others in creating an update to the Master Plan for future development. I commend these efforts! WE have a long way to go – but the journey is underway and creating a favorable environment for growth is a priority.

Deer – I continue to receive feedback on the deer population in the City. Opinions vary from those who would like to eliminate all deer from the City to those who enjoy their presence. A review of the previously planned deer cull by the USDA indicated valid safety concerns and a strong statement that such an action is not a role of a local police department. Property owners in an area where the reduction could be safely conducted would not give permission to hunt on their property. The Michigan Municipal League (our insurer) would not provide liability coverage when the USDA expressed safety concerns. The methods available to safely reduce the deer numbers are expensive and will require long term commitment – without similar efforts in both Townships, any effort will provide temporary or limited relief to those who seek to eliminate their presence. To suggest I do not have the interest of the citizens of Manistee in mind when conducting business on City Council is an overreach – but I’m willing to accept criticism and communicate openly with those who express a differing opinion.

Fireworks – is on the agenda for the work session next week. An ordinance to ban fireworks in the City with a slightly more open window than is mandated by State Law will be discussed and the public is welcome to attend and comment. Any ordinance is only as good as citizen involvement and action and people will need to make reports and sign complaints to aid in enforcement if an ordinance is to be effective.

12<sup>th</sup> Street – Finally a judicial ruling and a process to fix what should have been addressed years ago. Lots of passion, emotion, and opinion on the issue. The issue has been around for years – since the school was built. Detailed presentations have been made in City Council sessions, with engineering drawings and reports. Many options have been discussed. Original surveys of the properties impacted reflected offsets for this street project (easements were not included). Setbacks to comply with Filer Township zoning requirements are still met with remaining frontage and no variances are required for the project. Attempts were made to negotiate a resolution and many incentives were offered. There

are a number of streets in Manistee that have deteriorated to the point of requiring reconstruction as opposed to patching and reconstruction. Core samples are taken to assess the base and stability – this section of street is in the category of reconstruction due to deteriorated base, and by State Law, must be reconstructed to Major Street standards due to the number of vehicles and type of vehicles that use it the majority of the time. There are certainly different options, with differing impacts and costs factors. I regret that 2 families are impacted and we may potentially lose Filer Township residents who have contributed to community in many ways. To suggest the decision was hastily made and without consideration of all the impacts would dismiss many hours of council discussion (public) and a lot of research into the best option to fix the issues. It can't be resolved just by spreading another layer of asphalt. There is no State money involved in this project, so we have not "sold out to the State" for financing – but are required to comply with State Law in the reconstruction. I listened to those who spoke and considered the alternatives before voting to move forward on this issue. I'll continue to listen to the voices of the public and investigate issues in great detail to hopefully help make Manistee a better community for everyone.

Thank you for your comments and your interest in making Manistee a community where people choose to live, work, and enjoy the many recreational opportunities. Jim