

September 20 2016

City Council meeting – DDA Economic Director was approved as recommended by the DDA Board on a 6 to 1 vote. The process was repeated from previous hires, but this time vote was taken to gain City Council approval as required by Manistee DDA Bylaws and State Statutes. Travis Alden and Patrick Kay were both hired by the DDA Board in the past without following the bylaws and getting City Council approval. I've posted the DDA Economic Development Director job posting and Tyler's resume, and certainly contest the Mayor's assertion that Tyler's experience "checks all the blocks required for experience" as posted. That said, I'll do all I can to assist Tyler is success in this position and growth in the downtown district. I also praise the numerous volunteers who strive to make the various events successful and draw traffic to our downtown merchants – they put many hours into planning and executing the events. I've requested the PEG begin taping the DDA meetings (held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, noon, in the City Council chambers) for broadcast on the Public TV channel.

Fireworks Ordinance second reading was conducted, as well as a second vote – the ordinance is effective 10 days after that process.

A presentation was given on Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) with a timeline for resolution. The progress on identifying sources of infiltration of the storm/sewer system is painfully slow and expensive. There are many factors that go into these overflow events and there has been some success in identifying storm runoff that has been routed into the sewer system (that results in the overflows). The costs in state proposed "catch basin" solutions is shocking (as much as \$30,000,000.00) and could easily exceed the total of debt now outstanding for the City of Manistee. This is a very important issue and I'll track and post as information is available.

As of this date, there are no challengers for the 1st (Mayor's), 3rd (Roger Zielinski's), 5th (my district), or 7th (Erin Pontiac's) seats on City Council. Dale R. Cooper has filed as a write-in candidate for the 1st District seat and will not appear on the ballot – you would need to darken the circle on the ballot and write his name (Dale R. Cooper) on the line to the right to cast a vote for him. Write-in candidates can file up to the Friday prior to the General Election, but will not appear on the ballot and will miss opportunity for the many absentee ballots that may be completed prior to that date. If you vote absentee, please consider voting for Dale Cooper – there will be a spot to write the vote in, but again, he will not appear on the ballot.

As always, thanks for your comments and support. Jim