

Public Works Department Report

Council Meeting – August 20, 2026

This report provides an update on current Public Works operations, ongoing projects, equipment needs, and items requiring Council consideration. As this will be my final Public Works report, I have included recommendations and observations intended to provide continuity as the City moves forward.

Water Department

Water System Project Status

The current water project is **not yet complete**, and several portions of the water system work remain outstanding.

A new water main was previously installed from **E. Junge Street to E. Eickhoff Street**. However, it is believed that not all of the necessary taps and connections have been completed, and the old water main in this area is still active. Further investigation is needed to determine which taps remain outstanding, verify the condition and configuration of the system, and determine what work is necessary to fully place the new main into service and retire the old main.

The new water main currently extends across Main Street on **N. Walnut Street**. This portion is awaiting funding and available time to complete the connection into **E. Jefferson Street**.

Additional new water main still needs to be installed:

- From **E. Junge Street to E. Main Street**
- From **N. Pine Street to N. Olive Street**

Completing the remaining connections and placing the newer main into service will help the City move toward completing the water system improvements and retiring sections of the older water main.

Water Meter Reading System

The Water Department is currently using a touch-read meter reading system. The manufacturer has indicated that the touch-read gun technology will be discontinued at the end of 2026. While repairs may be possible into 2027, the availability of replacement parts will become increasingly limited.

I believe touch-read technology is reaching the end of its useful life, and I do not recommend making a significant investment in extending a system that is being phased out.

Recommendation – Transition to Radio-Read Sensors

I recommend that the City begin moving forward with **radio-read meter sensors** rather than continuing to invest in the touch-read system. Transitioning to radio-read technology would provide the City with a more sustainable long-term meter reading system and eliminate the City's dependence on aging touch-read equipment and increasingly difficult-to-obtain replacement parts.

Current pricing provided for radio sensors is:

- **400 sensors purchased at once:** \$145 per sensor, or approximately **\$58,000 total**
- **100 sensors purchased at a time:** \$155 per sensor, or **\$15,500 per 100 sensors**
- **Individual sensors:** \$170 per sensor

Purchasing sensors in groups of 100 would allow the City to phase in the new system and spread the expense over multiple budget periods rather than making the full \$58,000 investment at once.

The Public Works savings account has grown to the point that it is approaching the amount needed to purchase a side-by-side utility vehicle, or could be used to substantially offset the cost of the first 100 radio sensors. An earlier quote from Yeager's in Sedalia, Missouri, was approximately **\$11,400 for a Ranger 500 base model with a windshield**.

I recommend using the available Public Works savings to begin the transition to radio-read technology, with the first purchase consisting of approximately **100 sensors at \$15,500**. The existing touch-read equipment can continue to be used and repaired during the transition period.

If the current touch-read gun fails before the conversion is complete, the City can continue the transition by purchasing additional sensors in phases. This approach avoids making an estimated \$4,000 investment in another touch-read gun that is already being discontinued and instead directs those funds toward the City's long-term meter reading system.

Recommendation: Move forward with a phased transition to radio-read meter sensors, beginning with the purchase of approximately 100 sensors, while continuing to use and repair the existing touch-read equipment during the transition.

Sewer Department

Smoke Testing

The Sewer Department conducted smoke testing on **July 23, 2026**, in the northeast section of town, specifically the area north of Main Street between **N. Oak Street and N. Boonville Street**.

The testing identified three primary issues requiring attention:

1. **Missing cleanout cap** – A sewer cleanout was identified with a missing cap. This should be repaired to prevent unnecessary inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the sanitary sewer system.
2. **Sewer main near N. Pine Street and E. Eickhoff Street** – An issue was identified with the sewer main on the east side of the intersection. A **culvert replacement is also needed in this area**.
3. **Sewer main heading north from N. Pine Street and E. Eickhoff Street** – An additional issue was identified with the sewer main heading north from the intersection and will require follow-up.

The Missouri Rural Water Association (MRWA) also recommends installing **plastic manhole lid liners** as another measure to reduce inflow and infiltration. These liners should be considered as part of the City's ongoing effort to reduce unnecessary water entering the sanitary sewer system.

Spring Street Lift Station

The Spring Street Lift Station is still awaiting the return of its second pump. The company that originally rebuilt the pump has sent it back to the manufacturer for additional rebuilding and repair. The City is currently waiting for the pump to be returned.

At this time, I anticipate the pump being back in service by the **end of September 2026**, assuming the manufacturer's repair timeline remains on schedule.

Continued follow-up with the rebuilding company will be necessary to ensure the pump is returned and placed back into service as soon as possible.

Flow Equalization Basin

A pump issue has been identified at the flow equalization basin. **Embree Electric** has been contacted to inspect the equipment, make the necessary repairs, and determine whether one of the pumps is becoming weak and needs to be replaced.

F Highway Lift Station

I have spoken with **Charlie at DXP** regarding obtaining a bid for replacement of the F Highway Lift Station. The intent is to obtain pricing for consideration as part of the **2027 budget**.

Sewer Department Follow-Up

Several lift station and pump issues remain active and will require continued follow-up. The Spring Street Lift Station, flow equalization basin pumps, and other lift station equipment should continue to be monitored so repairs or replacements can be addressed before equipment failures occur.

The Department should also continue addressing the I&I issues identified through smoke testing and evaluating MRWA's recommendations for additional measures, including plastic manhole lid liners.

Recommendation: Continue prioritizing sewer system repairs identified through smoke testing, complete the Spring Street Lift Station pump replacement, evaluate the flow

equalization basin pump issue, and obtain a formal proposal for replacement of the F Highway Lift Station for consideration in the 2027 budget.

Streets Department

Sidewalk Project

I believe the current sidewalk project should be completed except for the installation of the required handrails. Once the handrails are installed, the project should be substantially complete.

Asphalt Street Repairs

I obtained **two bids for asphalt street repairs** covering portions of **N. Pine Street, Peach Street, Drennon Street, and Hazlett Street.**

Before proceeding with asphalt repairs, the sewer mains in the affected areas should be inspected with a camera to determine the condition and quality of the mains. This will help ensure that the City does not invest in new asphalt over sewer infrastructure that may require repairs or replacement.

N. Pine Street has already been camera inspected. Once the outstanding water project work and the identified inflow and infiltration issues are addressed, N. Pine Street should be ready to proceed with asphalt repairs.

This approach will help prevent the City from having to cut into or remove newly installed asphalt if underground utility repairs become necessary after paving.

Culvert Replacements

The following culverts have been identified as needing replacement or significant repair:

- **Golf Course area**
- **N. Oak Street** – corner before the water tower
- **Keeney Street and Bluebird**
- **East side of S. Spring Street at Ferguson**
- **S. Spring Street between Prairie and Bluebird**

These locations should be evaluated and prioritized based on condition, drainage needs, and the potential impact of failure on the roadway.

2027 Budget Items to Consider

E. Eickhoff Street Drainage

A drainage improvement should be considered just east of **N. Walnut Street on E. Eickhoff Street**. The proposed work would include **culvert placement from E. Eickhoff Street south to the existing waterway** to improve drainage in the area.

Park and School Drainage

A drainage issue exists around the **school and park**. A **collection box is needed at the curb between the pool fence and the shelter house** to collect and direct stormwater.

Additional work would include installing a culvert running north from the proposed collection box to the existing waterway. This project should be considered as part of the **2027 budget** to complete the drainage improvements in this area.

Streets Department Recommendation

I recommend completing the necessary sewer camera inspections and addressing any underground water and sewer issues before proceeding with asphalt repairs. N. Pine Street has already been inspected and should be considered for paving once the outstanding water and I&I work is completed.

Culvert replacements and the identified drainage projects should also remain priorities, particularly where deteriorated culverts or inadequate drainage could affect roadway stability or surrounding property.

Parks Department

Broken Pillar Repairs

The broken pillars in the Parks Department area have been repaired and the project is now complete.

Public Works obtained one bid for the repairs and made an effort to obtain additional bids. The Mayor asked if she could work with the contractor who provided the bid, and an agreement was reached with the contractor to complete the work.

Final Report Note

The information included in this report reflects my current knowledge and the status of the various Public Works departments and projects at the time of preparing this report. If additional items, information, or concerns come to mind before my departure, I will pass that information along to the Commissioners so it can be addressed as needed.