

Marshall City Council endorses MSDC/Zimmer economic development plan

By Carlos Restrepo. The Marshall Democrat-News: February 4, 2013.

The Marshall City Council endorsed the MSDC/Zimmer economic development plan at their meeting Monday, Feb. 4.

The endorsement comes approximately two weeks after Troy Nash, representative for Zimmer Real Estate Group, asked members of the council to get behind the plan.

The plan, a nearly 200-page document that outlines ways in which Marshall and Saline County can find new sources of economic development, was created in cooperation by the Marshall-Saline Development Corporation and Zimmer.

In other city council news, Council Member Ron Duvall, member of the community development and code committee, reported that in January the city had \$334,000 worth of construction done.

He added that 35 construction permits were issued for a total of \$1,956.

Duvall also asked if any progress was made in regard to getting junk cars off the street.

City Inspector Mike Morgan said he has contacted several owners of junk vehicles who have moved their cars without any issues. Morgan said if anyone sees a junk vehicle on the street, they are encouraged to report it at mmorgan@marshall-mo.com.

The council approved City Administrator Connie Latimer's request to authorize Police Chief Mike Donnell to explore participation of the city with the Missouri Department of Transportation's highway safety program. The program would give the city financial assistance to obtain an officer and a vehicle with equipment financed for three years. After the three years, it would be up to the city to decide to keep it.

The council also voted to authorize Latimer to look into updating a new comprehensive plan for Marshall. Latimer said the last comprehensive plan dates back to 1973.

The plan would outline Marshall's demographics, infrastructure and development. Latimer said that, since the Zimmer Group had just finished their economic-development plan, the city would work with the information they have already provided.

"That way we don't have to reinvent the wheel," Latimer said. "If we go to another group and ask them to do it, they would have to do all the groundwork the Zimmer Group has done with their last project... It would save us a lot of money in the long run."

Russ Donnell, commander of the City of Marshall and Saline County Medical Reserve Corps, asked the city council to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Medical Reserve Corps so his unit can be activated.

"In order for us to respond to an emergency, we need to be activated before we show up," Donnell said. "We need to know who activates us, who we are activated for."

The Medical Reserve Corps is a group of 67 volunteers who are trained to respond to any emergency in the area. The group, which is under the umbrella of the Saline County Health Department, is made up of physicians, nurses, EMT personnel and others who can respond to emergencies such as tornadoes, fires, flood and chemical emergencies, among others.

The council approved the MOU.

Two liquor licenses were approved for new businesses in Marshall:

Mustang Sallyz Saloon, managed by Sally A. Altena, located at 1665 W. Santa Fe Trail Rd., and Picosita Grill & Pizzeria, managed by Myra A. Granados, located 259 E. Morrow Ave.

Several citizens also addressed the council announcing upcoming events.

David Kemm announced the annual Take Pride in Marshall Litter Pickup, which will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 13 in the Marshall City Hall parking lot. There will be a picnic after the event. Bags and gloves will be provided.

Eric Crump, representing the Marshall Cultural Council, said the group will be hosting a Mardi Gras celebration at 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 11, at the Marshall Senior Center at 73 E. Morgan St. Crump said food, beverages, "beads and kazoos," will be provided at the event. Tickets to the

Bob James Jazz Festival will also be raffled and sold at the event.

Danielle Dace, human physiology teacher at Marshall High School, said there will be a blood drive from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at the school. The community is invited to come and help the students reach their goal of donating 250 units of blood. The mayor will also be signing a proclamation in honor of the blood drive's 25th anniversary from 8:50 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15.

The next meeting of the Marshall City Council is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19.