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MURIEL HAS LANDED IN ATCHISON

The last original 1935 Lockheed Electra L-10E airplane in the world has finally found its new home in Atchison. The plane, one of only 14 ever manufactured by the Lockheed Corporation and identical to Amelia Earhart's plane, was transported from California to Atchison on August 15th and arrived in Atchison on August 22nd.

Muriel, named after Amelia's younger sister Grace Muriel Earhart, was recently purchased by the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation, which seeks to raise funds to construct a new museum where Muriel will be housed. "The Electra L-10E is the same model aircraft flown by Earhart on her fateful final flight around the world," explained Karen Seaberg, Director of the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation. "Our goal

is to use Muriel as the anchor of the new museum to bring Amelia Earhart's story to life from her hometown."

Muriel's wings were transported on wide-load, flat bed trucks in early August; traveling through California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Muriel's fuselage arrived on August 22nd, and was guided on a tour of Atchison while being greeted by Atchisonians along the way. The plane also made stops at Atchison Elementary and St. Benedict Catholic School where the kids were able to see Muriel as she stopped in front of both schools. Muriel will be reassembled and housed at the Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport until a museum is built. "We're thrilled to carry on the amazing Earhart legacy

through this aircraft," Seaberg said. "At a time when it could have been discarded, it was instead impeccably cared for and restored and will now live on to educate future generations." Muriel was first purchased by aviatrix Grace McGuire, who rescued and began restoring the plane in 1984 with the hopes of recreating Earhart's final voyage across the world one day.

McGuire's goal was to restore the plan by only using the instrumentation and parts that would have been available in 1935. Due to health concerns, she was unable to complete her plans. Ms. McGuire reluctantly let go of Muriel so she could reside permanently in the birthplace of Amelia Earhart.

Atchison is honored to be Muriel's new home!



20th Annual Amelia Earhart Festival

The Amelia Earhart Festival was another great success! This year marked the 20th year of the festival as well as new additions to the celebration.

President of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce, Jacque Pregont, mentioned that additions to this year's festival were all "big hits". Pregont stated that the City's Parks Department helped out tremendously. "Thank you to Clinton McNeme with the City for his fantastic job of putting together our section of umbrellas to make a beautiful shady area on the Commercial Street Mall! Everyone loved it!", said Pregont.

The air show was new and exciting

with an added twilight show right before the fireworks. "We've had many positive comments on that new twist on our air show", Pregont stated.



Umbrellas provide some extra shade downtown during the festival.

The fireworks show this year tribute was a replay of the music used in 1997, the very first show that Paul Austin did for Atchison. Pregont stated, "I think it was just as big of a



Julie Krone accepts the 2016 Pioneering Achievement Award at Benedictine College. Photo courtesy of the Atchison Globe

hit in 2016 as it was in 1997!"

Every year the Amelia Earhart Festival honors a woman who exemplifies the spirit of Amelia Earhart. This year the special guest was Julie Krone, left, a highly decorated Thoroughbred jockey. To make the 20th year even more special, festival staff invited all the previous winners back to Atchison and celebrated with the seven that were able to attend. The speaker's symposium featured all eight amazing women sharing their stories and enthusiasm with the crowd.

Mark your calendar for the 21st Annual Festival that is set for July 14 & 15, 2017!

City Awarded More Grant Funds

Recently, Atchison was awarded two grants that will help with the overall beautification of the community.

Sunflower Grant

The Sunflower Foundation has awarded a grant to the City of Atchison (in partnership with Live Well Live Atchison) to assist in construction of the Glacial Hills Scenic Byway South Atchison Trail.

The Sunflower Foundation Trails program is designed to promote healthy living by helping communities provide all populations with safe and accessible opportunities for outdoor physical activity. “Trails can be transformative for a community,” said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation. “Enhancing walkability is good for health, and enhancing the built environment can be good for business. Trails connect people, promote community, and reinforce healthy lifestyles.”

When fully constructed, the South Atchison Trail will be a ten-foot-wide, asphalt, multi-use trail spanning 1.55 miles along U.S. Hwy 73 in southern Atchison. The trail will begin at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 59 and U.S. Hwy 73. From there, it will run parallel to U.S. 73 to the south, ultimately

terminating at Raven Hill Road where the Atchison Hospital and the City's largest retailer are located.

Not only will the trail provide enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities through a critical commercial corridor in south Atchison, it stands to benefit the community from an economic development and public health perspectives as well.

The City of Atchison and Live Well Live Atchison combined forces to complete the Sunflower Foundation trail grant application. The trail project aligns with Live Well Live Atchison's goal to create an environment and culture, through policy and systems change, that makes physical activity easier and more rewarding for people of all ages and abilities. Live Well Live Atchison Executive Director, Andrea Clements, states, “The trail provides the community with a convenient, low to no cost option for citizens of all abilities and in varying conditions of health to easily increase their daily physical activity.”

Aside from the funds provided by this grant nearly \$1.2 million will be funded by a grant from Kansas Department of Transportation’s (KDOT) that the City was awarded last

year.

Construction on the trail project is expected to begin in October, and weather permitting, it should be completed by early spring 2017.

Parks Recycling Grant

The City of Atchison was recently awarded a grant through the Dr. Pepper Snapple/Keep America Beautiful Park Recycling Infrastructure Program to purchase recycling containers for city parks and other public spaces. The City has pledged to match funds equivalent to the cost of five containers but will be receiving twenty containers in total.

Deputy Public Works Director Clinton McNemee explained, “This grant came at the perfect time. Voluntary curbside recycling participation is up to 40% and is steadily climbing. The City has been looking for budget-friendly ways to tie public facilities into the recycling program.”

The recycling containers are expected to arrive in mid-September and should be in place before the end of the year.

The City looks forward to implementing these projects into the community as well as seeing the positive impact they will have in Atchison.

EVENT CALENDAR

September 2

First Friday
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
(Downtown)

September 3

Farmer's Market "Sweetness of Fall Festival"
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
(Downtown)

September 6

Atchison City Commission Meeting
4:30 pm
(City Hall)

September 7

Atchison Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting
4:30 pm
(City Hall)

September 10

City Wide Fall Clean-Up
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
(Chamber)

September 10

Sgt. David Enzbrenner Memorial Run
6:00 am - 12:00 pm
(Downtown)

September 10

Atchison Rail Museum Open House & Fundraiser
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
(Chamber Depot)

September 11

Kiwanis Flea Market
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
(400 & 500 blocks on Main Street)

September 22

9th Annual Taste of Atchison
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
(Commercial Street Mall)

2017 City Priorities & Spending Plan Finalized

The City's 2017 budget season has officially come to a close, after the City Commission voted to adopt the proposed 2017 budget at the August 15th Commission meeting. One budget item in particular is sure to relieve some Atchison residents – the City Commission's decision to slightly lower the mill levy, making the out-of-pocket costs for taxpayers about the same or a bit lower than this year.

The annual budget is one of the City's most essential policy and operating tools. It describes how the City plans to use its resources to meet the needs of the community in the coming year.

Unlike a private company, the City's objective isn't to maximize profits or grow the organization. Rather, the City of Atchison exists to provide core public services when it's not financially or logistically feasible for the private sector to do so. The City's goal is to maintain cash flows that are sufficient to carry out day-to-day operations, plan for needed capital projects, and preserve adequate fund balances. The City is always working

toward that delicate balance of having just enough money, but not more than is needed. Every dollar that is acquired pays for the people, equipment, and commodities used to bring services straight to Atchison's citizens.

The City of Atchison is required by state statute to prepare and adopt a balanced budget each year. According to State law, cities in Kansas only have the legal authority to spend up to the budget limit set by the City Commission for each fund each year.

The City's budget season began in March when the Finance Director created revenue and spending projections to establish a preliminary revenue and cash balance forecast for the year to come. In May and June, the City Manager, staff and Commission met in a series of informal budget workshops to share and discuss information about revenues, economic forecasts, partnership requests, department requests, utility needs, proposed capital projects and equipment

purchase needs. The Commission also discussed priorities for the upcoming year and gave staff further direction for drafting the budget.

Based on the information gathered at the workshops, city staff crafted the City Manager's Recommended Budget, which accounts for available funds, anticipated needs, and priorities set by the City Commission. The Recommended Budget was presented to the City Commission at the August 1st City Commission meeting, where City staff looked to the City Commission for further guidance and direction to be incorporated into the draft budget. Commissioners were asked to submit budget amendments to the City Manager if they had any changes to the programming proposed.

On August 15th, the budget was presented a final time with no Commissioner amendments submitted. While the public is welcome at all meetings of the City Commission, this meeting in particular had a designated time to hear citizen comments about the budget. No comments were offered

during the public hearing and the City's 2017 budget season came to an end with a 4-0 vote to adopt the budget as presented. Mayor Bower was absent from the meeting.

If any budget amendments were submitted, they would have been reviewed, discussed and voted on by Commissioners. A majority of Commissioners must be in favor of adoption in order for the budget to pass and it must be adopted by August 25th, according to State Law.

The budget process is designed to help decision makers make informed choices about city services and capital assets and to encourage the participation of the public as well as staff members in the process.

With the adoption of the budget, it will be effective on January 1, 2017.

Rezone Denied for Mobile Home Park

Like most cities, Atchison utilizes zoning laws as a tool to help preserve property values and plan development. Zoning reduces the incompatibility of neighboring properties, prevents new developments from interfering with existing property uses, and preserves the character of the community. All properties in Atchison are assigned zoning (generally done in districts), but property owners can request that an exception be made to a property's currently zoned use or even request a rezoning of the property.

In May, a request was submitted by Decade Acres Properties, LLC to rezone the Birch Street mobile home park from the current zoning of I-1 (Limited Industrial District) to a MHC (Mobile Home Community). At the time of the application, Decade Acres was in negotiations to sell the property, located at 2033 Birch, along with a zoned MHC near 17th and Harper Drive. They submitted the rezoning request to enable the sale of the Birch Street property under the same zoning code as the property on Harper Drive.

I-1 and MHC zones are very different districts. I-1 zones are established for the production of marketable,

manufactured goods or other operations that can generate waste materials and create nuisances. A MHC zone is intended for mobile homes to be located and maintained for residential purposes.

Although previous Commissions tried to zone mobile home parks appropriately, the Birch Street mobile home community was zoned as an I-1, which is very unusual. It is unknown how this property came to be zoned as an I-1. Currently, there are eight mobile homes on this tract, which exist as a grandfathered, nonconforming use, so they must comply with the zoning regulations under the current I-1 zone. Since mobile homes are only allowed to be removed and installed in a MHC zone, the replacement of one or more homes at the Birch Street park is not permitted.

The request was originally brought to the City's Planning Commission who, after tabling the topic for one meeting, recommended the City Commission approve the change of zoning request for the parcel of land.

Since the 1990's, Atchison City Commissions have maintained a policy of retiring nonconforming

MHC's near residential districts zoned as R-1, R-2 or R-3. The City's Comprehensive Plan discourages the intermixing of mobile homes and site built homes because they tend to decrease the value of traditional residential neighborhoods and create aesthetic concerns for the community as a whole. Throughout the years, several mobile home parks have been retired in Atchison, such as the MHC near North 17th and Atchison Street.

Nearby neighbors have expressed concerns with the close proximity of the Birch Street mobile home park to their properties and the long time residential neighbors feel that the park has fallen into greater disrepair over the years.

When this issue was brought to the City Commission on July 18th, several neighbors, who reside in the residential neighborhood next to the park, spoke to the City Commission regarding their concerns about the location of the mobile home park on Birch Street. The neighbors present mentioned that the condition of the park has progressively gotten worse over the years and that they have had problems in the past with the park's residents trespassing on their property.

After much discussion and input from the neighbors of the park, the City Commission denied the rezoning request from Decade Acres on a 1-3 vote, with Commissioner Perdue absent and Mayor Bower, Commissioner Hausmann and Vice Mayor Reavis dissenting. The denial of the rezoning request suggests that the mobile home park will remain an I-1 zone which will prohibit homes in the park from being removed and replaced in the future.

When the Birch Street mobile home park was constructed, an Atchison resident, Ray McDaniel, owned the park and preserved it for years. Ownership is no longer local and the property has changed hands multiple times over the years, resulting in continued deterioration of the maintenance of the property. The Birch Street mobile home community is currently comprised of a mixture of rental and owner occupied units.

Despite the denial of the rezone request, Decade Acres still plans to sell the property. The prospective owners have stated that it is their intention to increase the number of owner occupied units in the parks.

Demolition Hearings Set

The demolition of severely dilapidated homes is an important part of the City's code enforcement endeavors, and Commissioners recently slated five more structures for demolition hearings. In order to be considered for demolition, repairs must exceed 200% of the appraised value of the structure.

In 2010, the City Commission decided to take a more proactive approach in addressing dilapidated structures throughout Atchison. They budgeted \$100,000 in funds to make a substantial stride in thinning out unsafe and dangerous structures throughout the community and making a positive

impact on Atchison neighborhoods by removing eyesores and hazardous structures. The end goal of this cleanup effort is to improve public safety and promote and encourage private re-investment.

At the July 18th City Commission meeting, demolition hearings were set for the following structures:

- 920 N. 4th
- 1021 Ash
- 1309 Division
- 1311 Division
- 1016 Division

These structures are severely dilapidated to such an extent that the structural strength or stability is materially less than it was when it was first constructed, and is less than the minimum requirements of the building code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose or location.

Additionally, the structures do not meet the minimum standards of the City's Housing Code. The demolition hearings for these structures are set for September 6, 2016 at 4:30 pm. Since the July 18th meeting, certified letters have been sent to the owners of the structures informing them that their

homes are set for demolition. At the September 6th Commission meeting, homeowners will have the opportunity to present their plans for their properties to the City Commission. The Commission will then decide whether to order by resolution that the structures be repaired or demolished. If a property owner is given an opportunity to repair a structure, they must provide a schedule for repairs to be made in a timely manner. If the schedule is not followed, the date of the demolition order stands and the City can move forward with removal of the structure.



920 N. 4th Street



1021 Ash Street



1309 Division



1311 Division



1016 Division

Code Enforcement: Top Priority for 2017 Budget

The last budget workshop of the season was held on July 21st at the Atchison Event Center where City Commissioners and staff met to discuss operations for 2017. This workshop addressed overall City operations including the City's General Fund and utility funds.

A large portion of the workshop focused on the City's code enforcement efforts. The Commission showed an interest in increasing professional services funds to purchase *iWorQ Systems*, a software system that can be used by city staff to better track code enforcement and building inspection efforts. Another code enforcement topic that was heavily discussed was an increase in nuisance abatement funding for maintaining vacant city lots. This funding has been added to the 2017 budget though the details of how the maintenance will be performed (city staff or contractor) have yet to be determined.

Commissioner Perdue suggested implementing a program into the budget to assist citizens who cannot afford home improvement materials, such as paint, in order to increase the beautification of homes in the community. In response to this suggestion, a \$10,000 Neighborhood Assistance Program line item was added to the proposed 2017 Community Development Department's budget.

Another proposed addition to the 2017 budget was \$30,000 for general code enforcement funding. City staff will develop a plan later this year to depict how the funds will be used for increased code enforcement efforts in 2017.

In order to accommodate the increased funding needs for code enforcement, Commissioners chose to forgo a budget proposal to hire a national retail consulting firm. These firms provide market research that help local governments develop high-impact retail recruitment and development strategies. The proposal was to assist with the City's retail economic development initiatives, but the Commission felt that the City's additional code enforcement needs outweighed the need for a retail consultant.

In the 2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the City's Sidewalk Cost Share Program will also see a substantial budget increase. An additional \$50,000 was approved for the program; bringing the total available amount in 2017 to \$100,000. The Sidewalk Cost Share Program serves as a partnership between the City and the property owners of Atchison in which the City helps with 50% of the cost of the improvements of the sidewalks and alleyways for which the citizens are responsible. The Commission saw a need to increase the funds in

this program in order to help more people in the community, since the program has been utilized to maximum capacity in the past. Those wishing to learn more about the program and availability of funds are asked to call the Public Works Department at 367-5561.

Another topic that was discussed at length was employee pay. In May, staff presented the Commission with employee pay data of similar cities and found that most positions at the City of Atchison pay under the market average and are not as competitive in pay as other local governments. City Commissioners are working to improve employee pay in 2017 to make their wages more in line with similar positions.

The health of the City's utility funds was also discussed during the final budget workshop. Although the water fund is in good shape moving forward, thanks in large part to the Commission's continued dedication to annually evaluate rates, the City has work to do to meet the revenue requirements of the City's Wastewater/Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Consent Order with KDHE. The City must raise \$3.1 million in revenue annually to address this problem by the end of 2017. Look for a comprehensive article explaining the City's CSO issues in next month's newsletter.

2016 Business Appreciation Month Awards

In 2016, the Kansas Department of Commerce named 26 Regional Business Excellence Award winners and 63 Merit Award winners. This program is the Department of Commerce's annual recognition of Kansas businesses and the contributions they make to the state and local economies. Three businesses in Atchison were recognized this year, two for receipt of regional awards and one for a merit award. The merit award winner was Mobrant, Inc. (The Hardware Store & Napa AutoParts store) and the regional winners were MGP Ingredients and Atchison Hospital.



John Jacobson (left), CEO of Atchison Hospital, Derek and Kelly Franklin (top right), owners of Mobrant, Inc., and Gus Griffin (bottom right), representing MGP, accepted the awards presented by Vice-Mayor, Allan Reavis, and Lyle Peterson, Northeast Kansas Regional Project Manager for the Business & Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Welcome New Board Members!

Congratulations to the following individuals who were appointed to serve on a City board:

- Parks and Forestry Board - Betty Fischer, Kyle Boos, and David Mason (appointed to serve four-year terms set to expire July 31, 2020).
- ADA Advisory Board – Dr. Paul Ogle (re-appointed to serve an additional three-year term set to expire July 31, 2019).
- Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAG) – DJ Bruce and Dick Loch (re-appointed to serve additional three-year terms, set to expire July 31, 2019).

2017 Commission Goals

The purpose of the budget workshops is for city leaders to engage in collaborative discussions that allow city staff to create a budget that aligns with the Commission's goals. The Commission defined their 2017 goals as:

- Downtown Redevelopment
- Housing Stock Improvement
- Creation of Quality Jobs
- Beautification & Corridor Improvement
- Quality Population Growth
- CSO Remediation & Infrastructure Improvements
- Good Government

City of Atchison Job Openings

The City of Atchison needs you! You have a great attitude. You love building strong teams, and you can work independently too. You enjoy hands on activities, shaping a healthier, safer community for your family and your neighbors. You realize that your experience is important, but your willingness to continue learning and your self-motivation are the invaluable traits that will set you apart. This team is ready for you. Give us the opportunity to get you on our roster by applying online at www.hrepartners.com.



Free Swim Night



The Lion's Pool hosted a Free Swim Night on July 21 from 6:00-9:00 pm. 240 people were in attendance and were able to cool off from the extreme summer heat.

