

COMPLETE LETTER FROM APRIL NEWSLETTER - MAYOR HARVEY

Dear Fellow Weston Citizens:

This has been a short first year as your Mayor. I have been busy going to meetings and making sure your interests are upheld. I have gone to Jefferson City for several meetings with our legislators. Prevailing Wage was the first time I testified. Any job that the City needs to contract out must pay the prevailing wage, which adds hundreds, even thousands of dollars to the contract. In many cases, the local contractors cannot compete with the prevailing wage. I thought this was wrong.

The Wireless (Small Cell) Infrastructure Deployment Bill SCS/HCS/HB1991. This establishes a process for wireless telecommunications providers to deploy small cell wireless facilities throughout the state.

Status: HCS/HB1991 passed the House on March 13 with a number of changes proposed by Missouri Municipal League. The Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and Environment Committee held a hearing on HCS/HB1991 and voted out a Senate Committee substitute, SCS/HCS/HB1991 with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The bill now moves to the Senate floor for debate by the full Senate.

The small cell tower issue came out of committee with several reservations that capped the amount municipalities could charge for use of the right-of-way. These cell towers would be great out in the country where broad band service is spotty or non-existent at best.

Meet concerning the Restrictions on issuance of building permits. The House Professional Registration and Licensing Committee held a hearing on HB 2451 (Rep. Cross) on Wednesday, March 28. HB 2451 requires municipalities to review, inspect and either approve or deny an application for a residential building permit within five days of submission. Building permits are deemed approved if not acted upon within the mandated five-day time period. Occupancy permits must be acted upon one day after submission of an application. In some cases it takes our building inspector 30 to 60 days just to get all the necessary paperwork from the builder.

HB 2451 also allows an applicant for building and occupancy permits to hire an engineer or architect to conduct the required inspections of a residential structure. A municipality must accept the finding of the applicant's engineer or architect. In this case the city is left with no choice as to what kind of structure is built. It may not conform to the Weston's historic standards. Urge your State Representative to oppose HB 2451 and any similar amendment to other bills.

The city has made good progress getting cleaned up since I first took office, but we have a long way to go. I have the Chief of Police making the rounds and issuing nuisance letters to property owners that don't meet the city code. In the future you will see some of these property owners going to municipal court for not complying with the cities nuisance codes. Weston is a destination city. Many tourists visit each year and brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars to our economy. I get discourages when these same tourists comment on the condition of our city. We should collectively take pride in what we have endeavor to make Weston a show town.

Sincerely,
Mayor Cliff Harvey