

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Mari E. Macomber, City Manager

SESSION DATE: March 25, 2008
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: Second Floor Conference Room

AGENDA:
- **Baltimore Lights**

Due to the Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum – the City has the opportunity to answer questions for citizens regarding the Highway 63 Alternate Route Project starting at 6:00 p.m. Therefore, the only agenda item is the Baltimore Lights.

BALTIMORE LIGHTS

This was an agenda item scheduled two weeks ago and postponed to the 25th to allow Dr. Miller the ability to attend. It is my understanding that a representative of the noon Rotary Club will also be in attendance to discuss possible Rotary involvement. The balance of this report is the same as the document sent out on March 10.

In previous Newsletters, the City Council had been informed that Dr. Lawrence Miller had contacted the City to discuss the City working with Baltimore merchants on a holiday lighting project. Since the City and Chamber of Commerce had tried on a few other occasions to do something with these business owners, I was very interested in meeting with Dr. Miller. Alisa Kigar, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and I met with Dr. Miller to discuss his proposal. He is very interested in partnering with the City and Chamber of Commerce to establish a holiday lighting program along Baltimore. If this project goes well, it may be the first of several partnerships to come.

At this point, it is all suggestion. Dr. Miller is proposing that the merchants and property owners pay for the decorations and that the City hang the lights to meet MoDOT standards. We currently hand all of the banners and the holiday decorations for the downtown merchants. There would also be the issue of installing the appropriate electrical requirements. Ameren has determined what is needed at each intersection. We are awaiting the cost for this. To make this project a go, it is expected that the City pay for the electrical upgrades and may be able to pursue some support from Ameren.

This is a good community project that will benefit the entire community. Kirksville serves as the shopping hub for many of the surrounding communities. This would be one way to enhance that shopping experience. It may also help to bring people to town just to see the lights during the holiday season.

Dr. Miller will be at the Study Session on Tuesday to visit with the City Council on his idea and the work that has been done so far.

Recommended Action: As I noted, this would be a wonderful community project and would go a long way to improve the appearance of our community during this time. We will need to determine what the costs of establishing power to the intersections and may need to take a multi-year planned approach.

Attachments

Letter from Dr. Lawrence Miller – pg. 3



NORTHERN MISSOURI EYE CENTER

Laurence I. Miller, D.O.
Board Certified in Ophthalmology

506 E. Rosewood
Kirksville, MO 63501
(660) 665-1223

March 5, 2008

Mayor Rowe
City Council
City of Kirksville
201 S. Franklin
Kirksville, Mo 63501

RE: Baltimore Lights for 2008

Dear Mayor and City Council

It is my observation and others that seasonal lights along Baltimore St. are needed. From Thanksgiving thru the New Years lights are few and far between leaving a dull and dark Baltimore strip. Myself and other small businessmen feel we can make a difference. With businesses purchasing wreaths and the city paying for the pole installation and maintenance this joint venture offers considerable beautification of our town

I have discussed this with a number of businessman/owners on Baltimore and I see a real interest. I am hopeful of your support for this worthwhile project. I have met with Alisa Kigar and Mary Macomber for their advise and support. I look forward to hearing from the council as soon as possible

Sincerely,

Laurence I. Miller, D.O.
Baltimore property owner