

To: City Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: April 3, 2015  
Weekly Council Update

**Library Update:** The West Branch Public Library and Parks & Rec concluded the winter's run of Afterschool Programs on Wednesday afternoon. Since November, 299 children have participated in the fifteen programs held through the winter. In April, the library will begin hosting teen programs monthly with the first to be held on April 15th and is themed, ...On a Stick!

**New TIF Bill Under Consideration:** The Iowa League of Cities is reporting that HSB225 passed out of a House Ways & Means subcommittee on Wednesday. The bill looks to impact Iowa's Urban Renewal law and has four components:

1. Creates a reporting requirement for the Legislative Services Agency to separate out the total TIF debt from the existing annual reports on an annual basis for legislators.
2. Grandfathers in existing public buildings and prohibits TIF from being utilized on future public buildings.
3. Annually ratchets up the base by 7.5 percent for TIF districts that do not have a sunset and have been established for over 20 years until no base remains. This applies to both pre-1995 economic development TIF districts and those created to address slum and blight.
4. Places a 20-year maximum on all future TIF districts.

The League is registered against HSB225 and will continue to protect this useful economic development tool while also promoting its positive usage.

**USGS Update:** City staff has been working with USGS since the last City Council Meeting to further discuss options concerning stream and rain gages and their associated costs. The proposal presented at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting was a package of gages that carried a cost of \$18,320 for the City. After some initial discussion with USGS, we reduced the College Street Bridge stream gage to a seasonal gage (which we can do without having a negative effect on future modeling) and rain gages were discounted by an additional 5%. This brought our cost down to \$15,720.

The City and USGS held another meeting this morning. We explored the potential of making further changes to the arrangement to reduce costs further. USGS agreed to provide another proposal that would remove one of the rain gages from the mix, which would further reduce our costs by \$1,980, down to \$13,740. This would be a total reduction of \$4,580 since the last meeting, with no detrimental effect to the modeling.

**The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.**