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**Liberty to Host Groundbreaking Ceremony for
New Utilities Operations Center and Wastewater Treatment Facility**

LIBERTY, Mo. – The City of Liberty will hold the official groundbreaking ceremony for its new Utilities Operations Center, weather permitting, on August 19 at 11 a.m.

This facility, which includes a wastewater treatment facility, administration offices, a testing laboratory and maintenance facility, is projected to open in 2017. After several years of extensive research and planning by City staff, a citizen-based Utility Task Force and the City Council, the city is implementing a long-term solution for treating Liberty's wastewater with the ultimate goal of creating the most cost-effective and reliable service.

Utilizing the findings of the Task Force and a 2012 feasibility study, the City asked voters to consider a no-tax bond issue for sewerage system revenue bonds to extend and improve the sewerage system. In 2013, with a 91 percent affirmative vote, Liberty voters approved a \$95 million no-tax bond issue to extend and improve the sewerage system in Liberty. The principal and interest of this bond will be paid solely through sewer system user fees, not through property or sales taxes.

Since gaining voter approval, the City has continued working to maximize Liberty's investment in this new facility. Using a design-build process, the City selected Goodwin Brothers as the contractor to facilitate the construction of the required treatment facility and other improvements for a not-to-exceed fixed cost. In addition, the City worked with the Missouri

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Department of Natural Resources to obtain necessary environmental permits and secure a State Revolving Fund loan. By acquiring this low interest loan, taxpayers will save an estimated \$40 million in interest expenses when compared to conventional bonding sources.

“This is the largest single investment to the City’s infrastructure to date,” said Lyndell Brenton, the Mayor of the City of Liberty. “With this facility, we are able to make long-term wastewater treatment costs more stable and predictable for Liberty residents while ensuring capacity for the City’s future growth in the coming decades.”

Mayor Brenton, Brian Hess, the Director of Utilities, Bill Taylor, a representative from the Utility Task Force, and a representative from Goodwin Brothers, the design-build contractor, will speak briefly.

The new Utilities Operations Center will be constructed on 25 acres of the City-owned property off Birmingham Road near the southern city limits of Liberty. For more information about the project, visit www.ci.liberty.mo.us/WWTF or follow the project’s progression on Facebook in the dedicated page under the events tab.

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Please note: Renderings of the final buildings and a map of the plant’s location are attached. Photos from the event will be available upon request.