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P-02b

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: 08/30/2019
To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager
From: Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager
Gert Paraskevin, Information Technology Director
Subject: Report and Communication – Cyber Security

Over that past several years, reports of cyberattacks on both private and public entities are becoming more common place. Local government is not immune as evidenced recently by what appears to be a coordinated attack on 22 municipalities in Texas.

We live in a connected world and like most other organizations, the City takes advantage of that connectivity to improve services to the residents and businesses they service. This opens up the door to the possibility of cyberattacks which continue to grow in volume and sophistication. Unfortunately, there is no one fool proof method to completely prevent such attacks, however there are recommendations that can be followed to minimize the risk and effects.

The City of Troy has implemented many best practices to secure systems to reduce the possibility of a cyberattack, or mitigate the effects should one occur. Some of the practices currently in place include:

- Regular secured backups
- Regular patching of Windows operating systems
- Regular software updates
- Firewalls with Advanced Threat Protection
- Intrusion Detection
- Spam filters
- Web filters
- Multilayered Anti-virus/malware protection
- Complex authentication
- Network segmentation
- Employee training
- Regular internal security audits
- Utilizing the principle of least privilege

The City has been practicing a majority of these for many years, and we constantly review our security posture trying to improve it on a continual basis. We also pay attention to new ransomware events and apply lessons learned.

In conclusion, we remain vigilant in protecting our internal and external facing systems against known threats and frequently harden those systems by following IT industry best practices as they continue to evolve.