

## Council Meetings



There were two budget workshops with Council in January, the first was to review departmental budgets. The second workshop covered smaller capital projects for FY25 including a new plow truck, Banner Valley sidewalk, and Well #1 maintenance and upgrades. The new fiscal year will begin on July 1, 2024. Below is the public meetings calendar for February:

- Feb 5 @ 7pm - Council Meeting & Old Town District Public Hearing
- Feb 19 @ 6pm - Workshop #3, Overall Budget Review
- Feb 19 @ 7pm - Council Meeting



### Urban Renewal Plan

An updated Urban Renewal Plan was adopted by council. This plan will allow the city to collect TIF funds from the new Founders Grove development off Rogers Creek Road and the Main Street Legacy Development on Main Street. The TIF funds will be used towards future infrastructure and economic development projects in Ely.

#### What is TIF?

Local governments fund development projects within a designated district through property taxes generated from that district over a multiyear period. In effect, this means that a certain amount of property tax revenue (the increment generated above an established base value) is diverted from affected entities, including school districts.

Council approved the new Comp Plan for the city. This comp plan will be the road map used for the next decade for city planning.

**>>> [Find the Comp Plan Here](#)**

Since 2023, Council and the Park Board have been working on plans for a parking lot addition at City Park. Phase 1 of the lot, located to the north of the pond, would be completed in 2024. Contractor bids were opened on January 31. Council will be reviewing bids and selecting a contractor at the Feb. 5 meeting.

**[To catch up on all other city news, events & important info, click here.](#)**

## Phase 1: Old Town District Infrastructure Project

What does this project include?

- Replacing all old infrastructure under Main Street (from Dows to Traer) and Traer Street including stormwater, water, and sewer lines
- Widened black topped roads to include parking on both sides of each street with concrete intersections
- Sidewalks on both sides of Main & Traer
- Improvements will accommodate new commercial development downtown
- New public parking lot on Main. (across from the Legion between Dan & Debbies and Krobs)
- Improved bump-outs for traffic calming on Dows at State Street, Walker and Main
- Additional off-street bicycle parking
- Improvements to the trail crossing at Dows
- Dedicated area for Ely All-Veterans Memorial
- Improvements to the trail crossing at Dows
- Improved stormwater management as the Old Town District is susceptible to flash flooding



Example of impact: Currently, the average water portion of the utility bill in Ely is \$30.00 per month, the proposed rate changes would increase this to approximately \$45.00/month.

### Estimated cost of the project: \$2.9M

- Portion funded by existing revenue sources: \$1.0M
- Portion that will need to be funded by a new revenue source: \$1.9M

### How does it impact you?

The city is planning to use a 20-year low interest loan which would be paid back via resident's water bill. This is currently estimated to be approximately a \$15/month increase to the water portion of the city utilities bill. The increase would take place starting July 1st, 2024.

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to the City Administrator at City Hall or contact an elected official. There will be a public hearing during the Council Meeting on Monday, 2/5, at 7:00pm for residents to comment on the project.



## BINGO FUNdraiser

>>> [Find BINGO Link Here](#)

You won't want to miss out on the fun February 9! The Friends of the Ely Public Library will be hosting a BINGO fundraiser at the Ely Legion! \$1 for 3 cards, doors open at 6:30pm, and drinks and concessions will be sold to support the Ely Legion.

## Trivia @ the Legion

>>> [Find Registration Info Here](#)

Do you binge-watch Jeopardy, go to parties secretly hoping someone will break out Trivial Pursuit, or just need a fun night out with friends this winter? Then General Trivia Night presented by Friends of Parks and Rec on Feb. 24 is for you! We will cap trivia at 14 tables - max 8 people/table. Cost per table is \$100. \$200 cash prize to the winning table! Reserve your spot by reaching out to a Friends member via the link below.



## Business Highlight!



Being InJoy is located at 1655 Dows St. Amber is a licensed massage therapist of 16 years and yoga instructor for 12 years. Mandy is a licensed esthetician for 15 years and a massage therapist for 10 years. Being InJoy offers a variety of massages, aromatherapy, holistic skincare treatments, intuitive energy work, private yoga sessions, and more! [Find their website link here for more info!](#)

Have you been stuck inside this winter and are in need of a 'parents night out'? Consider signing up for a Lock-In at the Community Center hosted by Ely Parks & Recreation on Saturday March 2 from 5:00p - 10:00p. Ages 5-10 welcome! [Sign up online via CivicRec.](#)

Find the sign up link below



**LOCK-IN /  
PARENTS NIGHT OUT**