

And the hits keep coming.

I never, in my wildest dreams, would have thought when writing my next update I would need to speak about recovery from a storm similar to a hurricane in Iowa. As I tend to be a cup-half-full personality I want to focus on the positives as we move forward. Throughout this year we have all dealt with a lot of challenges, uncertainties and difficult news stories on a daily basis. While this storm was no different it also introduced us to our neighbors, the kindness of humanity and the generosity of those around us. From a city staff that made piles of debris disappear in days, not weeks, to local residents helping others before tending to the damage on their own homes. It was heartwarming to see this side of us all. We are Iowans deep to the core and "Iowa Nice" shined brightly this past month. Now let's get you caught up on the month.

August marked the first month of going to two meetings instead of one. I will hit on the highlights for the month. Council is actually having a special meeting this Monday, 8/31, to catch up on a few items they could not get to due to storm recovery. The meeting will be available online at 8:00pm after council finishes a training session.

First off, council approved temporary parking north of the pond at city park for a tournament that was held at the park in early August. The goal of this was to alleviate some of the congestion south of the city park where attendees fill up the streets due to lack of available parking. The good news is this concept worked well and will be used in the future as long as weather conditions allow for it.

Second, a general discussion was held by council members after a question arose from an online attendee about the COVID-19 pandemic and wearing of masks and/or taking measures to prevent the spread at public facilities. This lead Councilpersons Ben Symonds and Dan Whitaker to craft a draft resolution requiring masks in public facilities. This resolution will be considered by council at Monday night's special meeting. The draft can be viewed [HERE](#).

Third, a resident asked on the status of the grass reseeding along State Street. City Admin Thompson said that staff was aware of the lack of the grass taking hold and the contractor has a grass planting warranty. The areas where new grass was planted, and failed to take, will be reseeded this fall.

Fourth, council voted to waive August 10th storm-related building permit fees. Permits will still need to be applied for and final inspections performed. Storm related damage, proof, and repair verification will be required.

Lastly, bids for North Drive/Knoll Court will be reviewed at Monday's meeting along with bids for storm sewer improvements behind Sunrise Drive. Council plans on awarding both bids on Monday.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. I want to close by thanking all residents for their support and patience as we continue to clean up after the storm and make repairs. If you have any questions about debris removal, repairs on your home, or in your area, please reach out to City Hall and they will gladly answer your questions.

Until next time,

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