

Life just got a lot busier.

With the start of school I've officially lost one of my biggest joys of summer: *The Free Evening*. The kids' schedules have filled up and consequently so has mine. Hopefully your schedule has a free moment, or two, to catch your breath. Now let's get you caught up on this past month.

First, public meetings were held and council reviewed three projects including the Hoosier Creek Trunk Sewer Project, State Street Shoulder Project and the City Hall Parking Lot Project. All three were approved to go out for bid. During the month of September bids will be reviewed and the projects will be rewarded. Most work should take place this Fall with the Trunk Sewer project going into the Spring of 2022. More updates will be shared with the public as each one gets closer.

Second, as part of council's commitment to start reviewing ordinances more in depth council spent time discussing the Golf Cart ordinance. Council received a wide variety of feedback from residents which included night time driving with properly equipped carts and lowering the age limit from 18 to 16 with a valid driver's license. Other suggestions including a requirement that every rider must be able to sit in their own seat and limitation on roads that carts can drive on. Staff was directed to put together a updated draft ordinance to present to council at the September 7th meeting for further discussion.

Third, council reviewed an updated draft ordinance for Mayor/Council Compensation. This ordinance has not been reviewed in 15+ years. The updated draft increased the Mayor's salary from \$4,000 to \$6,000 and Council from \$40/meeting to a salary of \$2,400. Minimum meeting requirements of 70% of regular and budget meetings is required each quarter to qualify for pay. The updated ordinance will go through three readings before it can be adopted. If passed the change in pay will take place for the new council on January 2022. The mayor's salary increase will not take place until after the next mayoral election in 2023.

In closing I wanted to remind everyone to keep an eye out for all of the activities going on in our town the month of September highlighted by the [Luke Bryan Pre Concert Block Party](#) on Friday, 9/10, and the annual [Ely Fall Fest](#) Friday-Saturday, 9/24-9/25. I hope to see you around town enjoying these fun events!

Until next time!

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