

# What a way to wrap up 2022!

Whoever wished for a white Christmas definitely has a good connection! I want to give a shout out to our Public Works team. We had several employees stay overnight at the Public Works building so they could stay on call during the Blizzard. They did a great job keeping our streets cleared in very difficult conditions. I appreciate their hard work and dedication to our city!

As we close out 2022 this also marks the end of my seventh year as your Mayor and my 84th newsletter! I utilize the December newsletter to look back at what we accomplished in current year and then look forward to the next year. I try to get to all the highlights, but I always miss something so make sure to celebrate all our successes even if they do not get mentioned here!

1) The **Sewer improvement project along Hoosier Creek** is just about complete. A variety of homes along the west side of town now have improved services and the north end of town now has access to connect. Abode Construction plans on starting on the first phase of their development on the north end of town in 2023. This will be a mixture of commercial and residential. Some of the goals include a daycare/preschool and an assisted living center.

2) Ely is working on a **GIS project** that will ultimately allow staff and residents alike to utilize an app to get updates on projects, notify the city of items that need to be fixed like potholes or damaged signs, along with much more.

3) We celebrated our **Sesquicentennial** this past summer! We had a great turnout, a lot of fun together and raised \$5,000 towards an all-veterans war memorial in the process.

4) Work continued on the planning stage for **infrastructure improvements to the Old Town District** in Ely. Phase 1 plans include a portion of Main Street (Dows to Traer) and all of Traer Street. Phase 1 will be presented to council and the public Monday January 9th. Please tune in or stop down at City Hall to get an update on this project.

5) Council took the first step with the initial engineering for a **Water Treatment Facility** in Ely to eliminate the yellow water issues in town by reducing the amount of iron in the water. These plans, and costs estimates, will be presented to the public later in the first quarter of 2023. The city was awarded the largest grant in the city's history for \$1,000,000 to put towards this project.

6) Initial engineering has started on a **Banner Valley Road project** to install a sidewalk along the south side of Banner Valley from Pacific to Sunrise. It will also include adding an asphalt overlay on Banner Valley. These plans and cost estimates will also be presented to the public later in the first quarter of 2023. Initial thoughts on this project is to break it into phases over several years to work within the city's budget.

7) The Watts group started ground work on a **new housing development off Rogers Creek Road**. This development will be mainly single-family homes with a few duplexes included in later phases. They are planning on building homes for the first phase in 2023.

8) Plans are in the works for the **Krob's Property** north of Dows Street for 2023. This project includes commercial properties on the ground level and condos on the second level. A parking lot will be added on the north end of the buildings where the current city garage is. Initial designs for this project can be viewed on a banner located at the corner of Dows and Main on Krob's property.

8) **Multi-Use Facility.** A group of residents are working with the city to investigate the feasibility of a building on the current City Hall site that would include a recreational component, city services and the library in one facility. A survey was sent out that past November and results of that survey will be presented at the January 9th meeting. The next phase of this project will be to design a couple preliminary layouts based on the survey results and then present them to the public for feedback. This will take place during the first part of 2023.

As you can see, we have and will be, working on quite a few projects heading into the new year. Your input will be needed to help decide which projects the city moves forward on and in what order. I appreciate you staying informed and engaged. It's been a pleasure serving as your mayor and I look forward to a great 2023!

Until next time!

**Eldy Miller**

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