

The anticipation builds...

February. To some its about Valentine's Day. To others its a step closer to summer and warmer weather. For an elected official its one of the busiest times of the year. A lot meetings! Budget meetings, committee meetings, and meetings for other boards within the county just to name a few. My calendar looks impossible, however, without the need to be outside working on projects there is actually time to have all of these meetings! Now let's get you caught up on the month!

First off, Brent Oleson, Linn County Supervisor, presented council with the county's annual report. If you would like to view the report click [HERE](#).

Second, council had requested bids for the demolition of 1600 Rowley at the January meeting. City Admin Horne informed council that several firms had been solicited for bids, however only one chose to submit a bid. The bid was for \$22,000. Dan Novak presented an alternative bid to move the house and requested the city contribute \$15,000 to help offset the cost to move it. After a lengthy discuss council voted to accept the bid from Dan Novak. There are a few more details to iron out, however the house will be moved before the summer. Once again the city plans to put in a parking lot where the house currently sits.

Third, council agreed to amending the agreement for Deer Valley which will allow the developer to start the next phase on the north end of the property. By starting this phase it will close a loop in the street system allowing the school bus to start entering the development to pick up kids.

Fourth, Ely's Spring Clean Up Day was set for Saturday, May 16th. More details will follow, however it should be a similar process to past years. Keep an eye out for more information in the near future.

Fifth, a public hearing was held on the maximum dollars in the fiscal year 2021 City Budget. This is a new requirement for city budgets that increased more than 2% from the previous year mandated by the state. Ely's budget increased more than 2% due to the growth of the city. The proposed tax levy will be slightly lower than last year. No comments were made by the public and council moved to set the regular public hearing for the budget on March 9th.

Sixth, a discussion was held on the upcoming Hoosier Creek Sewer project. Council decided to have a work session on February 19 at 6pm to review the project. No actionable items will take place during the meeting. The meeting will be lead by Scott from MMS. The public is invited to attend.

Seventh, Councilperson Hale introduced the second reading of Ordinance 283 amending it to include no parking on the west side of Jappa Road from Dows to Rogers Creek. Council passed the second reading and then voted to wave the third reading. Council then voted to adopt the amended ordinance. New signs will be going up on Jappa Rd once the weather allows.

Lastly, Councilperson Tuttle introduced the first reading of Ordinance 294 adding sections dealing with private wells. Council voted to pass the reading and then voted to wave the 2nd & 3rd readings. Council then voted to pass the amended ordinance. The change allows those with pre-existing wells in town to continue using them even if city-provided water gets within a connectable distance from their home, provided the well is in good working condition with safe drinking water for the home.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. Just a note, the city is looking for a couple volunteers to join the Board of Adjustments. This board does not meet regularly however they play an important role for residents, The Board functions as a quasi-judicial body, providing relief from interpretations of the City's zoning ordinance. If this is something that interests you please reach out to City Hall to apply.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Until next time!

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