

Life comes at you quick.

I want to open this month with a big thank you to staff, council members, and especially Dan Whitaker. A few weeks back my dad had a stroke and was in the hospital. During that time I've had to focus on my parents, not only sitting in with my dad, but also helping my mom get prepared for a new normal when my dad comes home. Dan stepped in and covered for me at a council meeting and also other meetings I normally attend. I truly appreciate his, and everyone else's, willingness to lend a hand during this time. Now let's get you caught up on the month.

First off, this is budget season. Council met several times to work on the budget for FY 21/22. A max levy hearing was held to set the levy at \$10.99. This will be the max amount for next fiscal year depending on how the budget works out. There will be a public hearing on March 15th to review and discuss the entire budget with the goal to submit it to the state by the end of the month.

Next, third readings were held to update the snow ordinance, water ordinance and sewer ordinance. All three passed making the changes final. The snow ordinance gives specific steps for staff to follow if sidewalks are not cleared in a timely fashion. The water and sewer ordinance were updated to include charts showing five years of future rates. These updated ordinances will be posted on the city website soon.

Third, council approved a loan that will cover street projects, library expansion, and the parking lot. The street projects were completed at the end of last year (Knoll & North). The parking lot project is the one next to City Hall with the goal of having it completed this year.

Fourth, a public hearing was set for March 15th to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 21/22.

Lastly, council discussed a Public Works Facility Expansion Project. This project would add a 2600 sq. ft. building next to the current building allowing the city to store equipment inside that is currently sitting year-round outside. The building would have natural light, a wash bay and a lift bay. Also included would be an overhang to allow for covered storage of vehicles. Cost for the project is estimated at \$250,000. City Admin Thompson recommended the city hire a construction management company. The discussion centered around Point Builders who built the Ely Fire Station. Point

Builders would manage the plans, cost estimates and they would oversee the construction. City Admin Thompson hopes to have a proposal from them soon with the goal of having the project completed by the end of the calendar year. More information will follow at a future council meeting.

I appreciate you taking the time to get caught up. Until next time!

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