

## **A month to reflect on what is important.**

As you know I usually start my newsletters off on a positive note. Unfortunately, this month will not allow for that. I want to take a moment to share a personal side of my life and subsequently what this community means to me. My father unexpected passed away earlier this month. It is hard to explain the process when it comes to the loss of someone close to you until you've experienced it, however the great community we live in including friends, neighbors and other community members who reached out during the past few weeks has been overwhelming. Losing my father is one of the most difficult things I have gone through and I want to express my appreciation to everyone for being there for myself and my family. The only advice I will share from my experience is to value time with those around you above all else. As these events happen throughout our lives we do not look back on the possessions we did not acquire, but instead the time we missed out with family or friends. While its not the easiest transition lets get you caught up on few things that happened in February.

This month was a rather light month for city council meetings. First off, council approved a couple park & rec expenditures including hiring an electrician to wire in scoreboards for both ball fields (that will be nice this summer!), upgrading security cameras in the parks and installing a piece of play equipment in Vavra Park.

Second, council had a workshop and continued to discuss Phase One of infrastructure improvements to Old Town Ely. This phase includes a complete restructuring of the road (adding curb & gutter), sidewalks and stormwater on Main Street (from Dows to Traer) and Traer Street (from Main to State). Council is still reviewing the plans presented by MSA and asked for some options that will be reviewed at a council meeting in March (most likely the 2nd meeting in March). The goal is to put at least a portion of this project out to bid later this year.

In closing I want to express my appreciation to Luanne Miller. Luanne's last day at city hall took place this month. Luanne served as Deputy Clerk and Clerk during her 7+ years with the city. Luanne and I started about the same time in our roles and worked closely together through a variety of staff transitions. Luanne was the face of Ely's staff to a lot of residents when she handled the front desk. She was friendly, helpful and caring. Thank you, Luanne, for your time working for the city. It was much appreciated!

Until next time.

**Eldy Miller**

*Mayor of Ely*

C: 319-350-9231

E: [eldy@elyiowa.com](mailto:eldy@elyiowa.com)