

## **Welcome to a New Month, Year & Decade!**

Hopefully your New Year's resolutions have survived the first month! My January was a full schedule and part of that schedule included an industry trade show for my job which lead me to miss the city council meeting this month. A big "thank you" to Dan Whitaker for taking the lead and covering for me! I will do my best to bring you up to speed off the minutes from the meeting so let's get you caught up!

First up bids were presented to change the life insurance provided to full-time city employees and a proposal to add short and long term disability coverage. After discussion by council a motion was made and approved to go with Hartford Insurance. Coverage will start on 2/1.

Next, council discussed the credentials and experience of Paul Rohlwing as an inspector. Paul will assist the city for electrical and commercial inspections, as needed. Mary is working towards her certifications in these areas and Paul will help to mentor her as well. This will prepare her to test out in these areas in the near future. Paul will fill the role left by the agreement not being extended with the City of Fairfax. Council voted unanimously to hire Paul.

Third, council received multiple correspondence concerning the demolition or relocation of the house at 1600 Rowley Street. At the conclusion of the discussion staff was directed to get written bids for the demolition of the house. No further action was required at this time.

Fourth, council made a motion to approve the Contract for Law Enforcement services with the Linn County Sheriff's office and setting scope of services.

Fifth, after multiple bids were sought from local firms for legal services it was recommended that the city approve the contract for legal services with Lynch Dallas PC. The motion passed unanimously.

Sixth, the first reading of Ordinance #283 amending the city code pertaining to parking allowed on only one side of the street on Jappa Road (current parking is allowed on both sides). Council approved the reading. The second reading will take place at the February City Council meeting.

Lastly, Ron Stark with Public Works addressed the council concerning the fluoride treatment in the city's water system with various industry reports and analysis. Upon conclusion of the discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Symonds to stop fluoride treatment, seconded by Councilperson Tuthill and approved by council unanimously. If you would like more information on the reports please contact City Hall.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. This time of year is also the time when staff and council work on the next fiscal year's budget. There will be another workshop next Tuesday, February 4th, at 6:00pm that is open to the public. This will be followed by a review at the next council meeting in February. I would encourage everyone to attend to see how, and where, your taxes are being utilized by the City.

Just a reminder, we have a good 'ole fashion Community Potluck coming up Sunday, February 9th. I invite everyone to come down, bring a dish to share, and enjoy time with your neighbors. At the end of the meal we will recognize the 2020 Ely Citizen of the Year. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Until next time!

**Eldy Miller**

*Mayor of Ely*

C: 319-350-9231

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