

It's Iowa, it's January, and that means snow.

On the bright side we've been able to avoid the really cold stretches that some winters bring us in Iowa however, yes, the snow is piling up. I want to give a shout out to our Public Works Department. I know there have been several times they have slept at Public Works so they could get up in the early hours to continue moving snow. On top of that one of our plows has had some mechanical issues and has been unavailable for the past few weeks. Public Works has been very creative working with the equipment they have to make sure our roads are clear. Now let's get you caught up on the month!

First off, you have probably noticed the cell tower being erected next to the Water Tower. The tower is being put up by Verizon. Additional work is being completed to connect the tower and when it goes online the city will notify residents. We are hopeful for sometime in February.

Council held the first and second readings for an update to the Snow Removal section of the city code. The update gives better definition to the steps the city can take if sidewalks are not cleared 24 hours after a storm. This includes first a notice to the property owner and then, if the sidewalk is still not cleared 3 days after the notice, the city will clear the sidewalk and assess charges to the resident (a \$50.00 admin fee + \$75/hour to clear the drive, billed to the exact time spent clearing the sidewalk). The readings were passed by council. The third and final reading will take place at next Monday's council meeting.

A public hearing was set for February 15th for the max tax levy for fiscal year 21/22 at \$10.99. A max levy means that council cannot go any higher than that amount, however the final amount may decrease if council so chooses after budget review. By February 24th the initial budget will be presented to the public with the goal of finalizing the budget by mid-March.

Ely's Spring Cleanup Day has been set for Saturday, May 15th 8am-12pm. More details will be provided as we get closer to that date. Last year's Cleanup Day was cancelled due to COVID restriction.

The city has a couple open spots on boards. If you are interested in the future development of the city, the future of our parks and recreational programs or helping out

on the board of adjustments I encourage you to apply for a position on the Planning & Zoning Board, Park & Rec Board or Board of Adjustments. Normal time commitment is a monthly meeting. By participating on one of these boards you will help to shape the future of your community. If you are interesting in applying click [HERE](#) for the application.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. If you ever have any questions feel free to reach out via the contact methods below.

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