

# Welcome to a New Year!

This is a busy time of year for myself, council and staff as we work on budget for the next fiscal year. This process runs through March when the budget is then presented to residents for review and final approval by council. Ely continues to be in good financial health. Some larger projects council is considering for next fiscal year include a sidewalk along Banner Valley, a parking lot on the north side of City Park, road and infrastructure improvements downtown on Main and Traer, improvements to the Public Works building so more equipment can be stored indoors, and a Water Treatment Facility which would minimize, or eliminate, the need for water softeners in your home and get rid of the yellow water issue. I encourage you to attend meetings in February to understand how this process works and what we are doing to be good stewards of your tax dollars.

Next, staff updated council on the trunk sewer project which is now 93% complete. You have probably seen the last stretch of the project as the contractor installs a sewer line extension along the creek at the north end of Ely. As long as the weather cooperates this project will be wrapping up soon.

Third, council set a public hearing for the max levy rate for next fiscal year. This will take place at the next council meeting. The proposed rate is the same as last year's rate. After this rate is set council will work within this rate to set the final budget.

Lastly, City Admin Thompson presented a couple alternatives for the second south entrance into Deer Valley. Staff recommended to move the proposed entrance from Rock Island Drive to Glendale Lane. By making this change it would create more space between the two entrances into Deer Valley, (current one is at Parkland) It would also straighten out the road that will be used as the east side connector from Banner Valley to Rogers Creek Road. Council also discussed future safety measures that will need to be considered including adding stop signs and other safety markings. This alternative will be discussed with the developer and staff will report back to council at a future meeting.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. Please reach out to myself, council members or staff if you have any questions or comments.

Until next time!

**Eldy Miller**

*Mayor of Ely*

C: 319-350-9231

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