

Spring has begun.

I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the nice weather days that seem to be creeping up in frequency. It is fun to see the kid's soccer program start back up this year, people out for walks and bike rides, and neighbors re-introducing themselves to each other. Now let's get you caught up on the month.

First off, with the help of Alliant Energy the City of Ely is submitting a grant to the Iowa Department of Transportation for an electric vehicle charging station to be placed in the Downtown area. If this grant is approved it will pay for approximately \$15,000 of the \$17,000 required to install the station. Staff will find out later this year if we are awarded the grant.

Next, a public hearing was held to review the budget for FY 21/22. After hearing no comments council approved the budget setting the city tax levy for next fiscal year at 10.95. This is up slightly from 10.81 set two years ago. To see how our city budget is broken down in graph form click [HERE](#). This will be a minor impact on homeowners taxes next year. Unfortunately (or fortunately if you are selling your home) a larger impact will be felt due to the increase in assessed home values in our area. I personally saw my home increase 20% in value over last year! This is one of the challenges of living in a highly sought-after community. The demand for housing drives up the value of the homes in it.

Third, the FY 22-26 Capital Improvement Plan was discussed again. With no comments from the public a vote was taken, and approved, to adopt the plan. This plan will help to give council and staff guidance for short and long term planning on capital projects in the city. Please note this is a living, breathing, plan that will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated as needed. To view this plan click [HERE](#).

Fourth, council discussed the hiring of a construction manager services company for the Public Works facility expansion during the first meeting. In the second meeting an agreement was approved by council with Point Builders (the same company that designed the Ely Fire Station). Point Builders will proceed with preliminary designs and budgeting to present back to council later this year. The budget for this project is not to exceed \$300,000. The goal of this project is to create more space to store city equipment inside and give more room to maintain vehicles.

Fifth, plans for Deer Valley 4th Addition (around 20 lots on the north side of the development) were presented to council. This development is on Banner Valley Road. The plans were approved. More than likely these lots will become available later this year.

Lastly, City Admin Thompson updated council on a variety of ongoing projects:

1) Plans are in the works to start on the sewer line extension later this summer along Hoosier Creek. Once this is in place development will start soon after on the Cozzie

property on the east side of State Street.

2) The city also plans on the construction of a new parking lot next to City Hall along with storm sewer improvements on Rowley Street this year.

3) The city plans to install an Ely wayfinding sign on the south edge of town that will be a smaller version of the one on the north side. That goal is to get the sign installed later this year.

4) The city website has been recently updated. Please take time to check it out at www.elyiowa.com

In closing our community is mourning the loss of one of our own. With the tragic passing of Robert McFarland we have paused to pray for his family, helped in any way we can, and hugged those around us a little bit tighter. I have not doubt our loving community will continue to support his family in the days and months to follow. We do our best to help each other out in their time of need and that is one of the reasons I am so proud to call this community my home.

Until next time.

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