



A Month of Transition

From snow the end of April to 85 degrees and muggy over Memorial Day weekend, we've seen quite a transition in weather over the past month! Also, with the continuing COVID health emergency we have seen Ely transition from a complete lock down to easing restrictions with most businesses opening up by June 1st. Lastly, we've seen a transition in our city staff as well. During the month of May council appointed a new City Admin in Adam Thompson, Luanne Miller has been promoted to City Clerk and we have a new Billing/Deputy Clerk in Tara Miller. Now let's make one last transition and get you caught up on this month's city council meeting.

First on the agenda was the 1st reading of Ordinance 285 regulating Vicious Animals. The ordinance has been modified to remove breed-specific language along with adding in language to put more responsibility on the owner. After no comments from the public, council approved the 1st reading. The 2nd reading will take place at the June Council Meeting. If you would like to review the updated ordinance click [HERE](#).

Next, council approved a resolution to amend the fiscal year 2020 budget. During the process it was noted that a couple line items in the library's budget were missed in the amendment so a special meeting was held on May 21st to approve a public hearing for the June Council Meeting to amend the 2020 budget once again to include these items. If you would like to review a copy of the amended budget please reach out to City Hall.

Third, the 1st reading of new Ordinance 286 regulating Mobile Food Units took place with the recommendation of adding a section that would waive fees for non-profits. The 1st reading was approved and the 2nd reading will take place at the June Council Meeting. If you would like to review the new ordinance click [HERE](#).

Fourth, council approved a contract with the Linn County Sheriff's Department for 2020-2021 in the amount of \$37/hour for 108 hours of service a month. The Sheriff's department routinely spend 140-160 hours a month in the city even though the contract only pays for 108. This partnership has been very valuable for the City of Ely in not only protecting its residents, but also saving the city the high cost of maintaining its own police department.

Fifth, council approved a contract with MMS Consultants for the Hoosier Creek Trunk Sewer Wetlands Mitigation Planning and Permitting. This is the next step in moving forward with the project to improve, and extend, a sewer line from the main plant all the way north to near Wright Bros Blvd. The city is planning on getting this project started later this year. With the new line running along Hoosier Creek there should be limited impact on commuters during this project.

Sixth, a discussion was held on street projects for the 2020 summer season. Options

were presented for Knoll Court and North Drive (north of Dows Street), as well as Vista Road, Traer, Fuhrmeister and Main Streets downtown. Council gave direction to the City Admin to organize a small bond with Speer Financial and return to the June Meeting with the final numbers for review and approval.

Lastly, council approved a small business water bill forgiveness program for businesses closed due to the COVID-19 health emergency. For more information on this program please contact City Hall.

In closing, the past couple of months all council meetings have taken place online. Our goal is to return our regular meeting to the council chambers in June. Due to state limits in capacity (50%), and social distancing guidelines, the number of people allowed to attend in person will be limited. The meeting will still be streamed live for residents to view. The link will be made available through city social media outlets before the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or city staff.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. Until next time!

Eldy Miller

Mayor of Ely

C: 319-350-9231

E: eldy@elyiowa.com