

# New Year, Same Goal. Continue Improving our City.

As the calendar turned to the new year many of us set new goals and hopefully celebrate previous ones met. January is a very busy time for staff and elected officials as we work on achieving city goals and how that fits into the budget for the next fiscal year. Multiple workshops take place throughout January and February utilizing tools like the [Capital Improvement Plan](#) to help guide council. The budget will be presented to the public soon and I can assure you the city is in great financial health even with the challenges we've encountered in the past two years. Now let's get you caught up on what happened this past month during the council meetings.

First, the meeting started off with Councilpersons Mark Becicka and Dan Whitaker taking the oath of office after being elected this past November. I appreciate their willingness to serve and look forward to working with the both of them along with the rest of council this year.

Second, Admin Thompson announced the city was awarded a \$20,000 grant to complete a GIS program. This will be used to map the city's utilities, improve emergency response, allow for preventative maintenance on utilities, improve communication with the public and economic development purposes.

Third, the first reading of the [ordinance](#) amending the Golf Cart and All-terrain Vehicles rules took place. Highlighted changes include allowing night-time driving with a properly equipped vehicle, lowering the age to 16 with a valid driver's license and stricter penalties for those who violate the ordinance. The second reading will take place at the next council meeting.

Lastly another first reading took place to amend the zoning code. A request was received to amend zoning at 1465 Main Street from R1-A (residential) to C-1 (commercial). The property is planned to be used by Odies for events and other business-related uses. The second reading will take place at the next council meeting.

In closing I want to remind everyone to put a note on your calendars for the weekend of August 12-13. The city is planning a Sesquicentennial celebration for our 150th birthday! This event will be unique all to itself with fun for the entire family. Event details will be shared soon!

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](mailto:eldy@elyiowa.com)