

A little bit of merry in your step.

Hopefully this email finds you refreshed from a long Thanksgiving weekend. I was happy to see nice weather on Saturday for our fire department as they continued their tradition of volunteering their time to decorate our town with holiday lights. We always enjoy driving through town this time of year when it is lit up for the holidays! Now let's get you caught up on the month.

First, with the increase in COVID cases in our area council approved Closing City Hall beginning on November 17th. Residents can still reach staff during regular business hours by phone, email or by appointment. This closure will remain in place until further notice.

Second, Council voted to approve the first reading amending chapter 155 of the city code with the purpose of adopting the building code from Linn County. This is part of the process as the city moves to partner with Linn County to handle the city's building permits. The second reading will take place at the next council meeting.

Third, a plan was approved for temporary downtown business reserved parking. This will allow up to two spaces for food and beverage businesses and one for retail. The goal of this plan is to allow short-term parking for carryout orders which has greatly increased during the pandemic. These marked spots will be in effect until March 31, 2021. The city is also looking into other options for a long-term solution to downtown parking issues.

Fourth, Council awarded the Downtown Neighborhood Area Infrastructure Design Project to MSA Professional Services. They were one of four companies that bid on this project. This is the first step in creating a long-term, actionable plan to improve "old Ely" and the downtown area including streets, utilities, storm water, sidewalks, and more. This project will include input from the public and open meetings. I encourage everyone to participate in this upcoming project to improve our town. More details will be coming soon!

In closing, Giving Tuesday is upon us and City Council members and myself have decided to challenge our community to help out our local fire department! As a first-response EMS agency the fire department is looking to upgrade to an electronic

device capable of measuring baseline vitals quicker and more efficiently than traditional manual methods. The equipment they are looking to purchase costs approximately \$5000. Council members and myself have decided to donate a portion of our 2020 salaries to help purchase this device. Between Council and myself we have raised approximately \$1400. The Ely Park Board has offered to donate any proceeds they receive for December can donations which is normally around \$350! I am now asking for your help to get us to our goal. You can donate by clicking [HERE](#) or you can drop off a donation at the City Hall drop box. Another way you can help is by donating your cans. They can be dropped off at the City Shed just south of Dan & Debbie's throughout the entire month of December. Any amount helps as we work together to purchase this potentially life-saving equipment for our community. Thanks!

Until next month,

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