

## Tis the Holiday Season!

This past weekend we were returning home from a Thanksgiving gathering and Ely was all lit up. We loved seeing the decorations and changed our route so we could go past City Hall to see the large tree out front! I want to thank the volunteers from the Fire Department that spent part of their holiday weekend putting up the decorations. It is much appreciated! Now let's get you caught up on the month.

First let's touch on a couple ongoing projects:

- 1) The shoulder project along State Street is complete.
- 2) A variety of manholes in town were lowered with the concrete around them replaced.
- 3) The parking lot next to City Hall is near completion and should be opening by mid-December.
- 4) The concrete has been poured at Schulte (Fishy) Park for the parking lot along with new sidewalks along Parkview Lane and up to the pavilion. They should be finishing the ground work this week!

Second, a public hearing was held along with the first and second readings changing the zoning of 55 acres within Ely from R1/R2 to all R2. This land is located just south of Rogers Creek Road and butts up to the north side of the Deer Valley Addition. The rezoning allows more flexibility on the layout of the future development. The current plan is for approximately 64% single family homes and 36% two family homes. Council has approved both readings. The third and final reading will take place at the next meeting.

Third, a public hearing was held along with the first and second readings to update the noise ordinance to the city code. The code was updated after receiving comments from the public and council. The updated code allows for the noise infractions to be handled as a nuisance rather than only as a criminal situation. The final reading will take place at the next council meeting.

Fourth, council reviewed options to finance the Hoosier Creek Sewer Project. The low bid for the project came in at \$2.2 million. Adding in engineering fees, easement agreements and other costs the project total was \$2.7 million. After discussing with staff and the city financial advisor, along with comments from the community, council voted to approve an increase in sewer rates starting in July 2022 to fund the project. This will increase the average bill approximately \$7-\$15/month depending on sewer usage. *Why did council vote to raise fees?* This project is the third step in a larger project to fix the roads, water and sewer on the west side of Ely. The project also extends utilities to the north end of Ely for future development, some of which plans on starting as early as next year. The city will charge tapping fees on all future developments that utilize this sewer line to help pay for the extension portion of the project. These funds will be collected during the final platting process within each development. This area will not only be utilized for housing, there are also tentative plans to add commercial property along State Street. One of the challenges our city has faced is the lack of commercial property for businesses to move in. This project will help to open that up.

Lastly, a public workshop on the Old Town District (downtown area) will be held next Monday, 12/6, at 5:30pm at City Hall. MSA will present their draft plan for improvements for the area. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This is a culmination of the ongoing planning project that included public input opportunities over the past six months.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. As always, if you have any questions feel free to reach out to myself, council members or staff. We will gladly work to get answers to your questions.

Until next time!

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