

Straight from summer to winter.

So 2020 decided to push the winter button early this year. My youngest loved it, and the next thing I knew, Christmas carols were playing in our house. I appreciate the enthusiasm, however I wouldn't mind waiting another month or two for that! Now let's get you caught up on the month.

First off, a hearing was held regarding voluntary annexation of Axeland Acres which is located at the NE corner of Ely Road and Mabie Road. After answering questions from the community council voted to approve the annexation of 24 acres into the city.

Second, council discussed steps needed to improve the city's water and wastewater services. The first step is to approve an agreement with MMS to provide an evaluation of the current status along with recommendations for improvement. Council approved this agreement and results will be presented in December.

Third, City Admin Thompson discussed personnel role changes in Public Works. Tyler was promoted to head of Parks and Public Facilities and Casey added the roles of Storm Water Management, Construction Inspection and Code Enforcer. A new full-time laborer role will be advertised in November along with seasonal roles for snow removal. Finally, Mary will be stepping down as City Inspector at the end of the year, however she will be staying on one day a week to handle zoning compliance and support the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Fourth, Library Director Sarah Sellon gave a Library Expansion update. A series of meetings will be taking place in November to get public input during the planning stages of this project. Meetings can be attended in-person for a limited audience or viewed online. For more information on the meetings contact the library or check out their FB page [HERE](#).

Fifth, an update was given on the Capital Improvement Plan. Staff is researching city finances and bond capacity. Budget packets will be worked on and recommendations will be made at the November 2nd meeting. To view the plan click [HERE](#).

Lastly council discussed contracting with Linn County for Inspection Services. Ely would follow Linn County's permit fee structure and update codes to match the county's. The

plan is to make this switch on January 1, 2021. Residents will be able to apply for permits online, stop at city hall to apply with assistance, or go to the county services building in Cedar Rapids.

As a reminder this coming Monday, 11/2, at 5:30pm, the Linn County Sherriff's department will be offering a Safety & Crime Prevention Meeting to discuss steps residents can take to be safe and prevent crime. This informal meeting will allow time for questions from residents. For more information click on the link [HERE](#).

Thanks for getting caught up and enjoy your Halloween weekend!

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