

It's time to collect that candy!

Growing up my parents were strict on age limits for Halloween. After the 6th grade we were no longer allowed to go out Trick or Treating. That has led me to be a more lenient on my kids and I have basically given them the green light to enjoy the holiday as long as they like. I would recommend if you have some teenagers come up to your door appreciate that they are holding onto their childhood a bit and thank them for coming out. Adulthood comes quick enough! Now let's get you caught up on the month!

You have probably noticed a lot of construction around town. The city improved the shoulders on the north end of State Street, concrete is currently being poured at the new parking lot next to City Hall and soon work will start on paving the parking lot and adding sidewalks to Schulte (Fishy) Park. Lastly, starting in November, a variety of manholes around town will be lowered within the streets and the areas around them improved along with the start of the Hoosier Creek Sewer extension project. On top of all of the city work the new car wash is being constructed next to Caseys. I, for one, am very excited as it will be nice to not have to drive to another city to get my car washed!

First off, the final readings took place to increase the compensation for the Mayor and Council Members. Meeting attendance requirements were added as well. The increase in pay will begin for council members in 2022 after the election takes place. The mayor's salary will increase in 2024 after the next mayoral election.

Second, the final plat for Deer Valley 4th Addition was approved. This plat includes approximately 20 new lots on the north side of the development. This development is located on Banner Valley Road.

Third, bids were opened up for the Hoosier Creek Sewer Line Extension Project with the low bid coming from Schrader Excavating at \$2.25M. Council chose to accept the low bid, however it was still higher than anticipated due to increased material and labor costs. Council plans on reviewing options provided by staff at the next council meeting on how to pay for the difference.

Fourth, MSA presented a construction plan recommendation for the Downtown Masterplan. A workshop will take place in early December to present the initial downtown masterplan design to the public. Residents are invited to attend and more details on the workshop will be posted when they are available.

Lastly, a discussion was held to review a draft noise ordinance to add to the city's code. The draft ordinance was created by the city lawyer. The first reading will take place at the next council meeting and input from the public would be appreciated. The new draft will be posted with the agenda packet on the city website.

In closing I wanted to add a couple reminders. First, limb pick up is done for the year. If you decide to trim trees yet this year you can contact City Hall and set up a time to drop them off at the WWTP. You cannot drop them off without an appointment. The other option is to take them to the Linn County site. Second, this upcoming Tuesday, 11/2, is election day in Ely. The voting location is at the St John's Lutheran Church on the corner of Walker & Rowley. I encourage everyone to get out and vote!

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. As always, if you have any questions about what is going on in Ely feel free to reach out to myself, a council member, or staff.

Until next time!

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