



## Looking back on 2018; forward to 2019.

Another year has come and gone. I will look back fondly on 2018 as the City of Ely had many exciting things happen with others to look forward to as well. As part of my letter this month I am including a bit of a wrap on the year after getting you caught up on the council meeting.

The meeting for December was rather light on agenda which is normal for this time of year. First off, Glen Buresh presented a petition asking for the compost site to be moved from the water tower area. He expressed concern that it was an eye sore for residents on Deborah Anne Lane. Council discussed the issue at length with residents in attendance and agreed to look at alternative options/improvements and make a decision soon.

Next, council continued to review information on the upcoming capital projects. This included updated estimates for each project. Council agreed to look at all the options and decide soon on how they would like to proceed. A special meeting was held on 12/19 where these projects were discussed further. Council directed Scott with MMS to proceed with putting each project out to bid so final numbers could be reviewed. Another public meeting will be held in late January.

Third, council approved the FY 19-20 contract for law enforcement services with the Linn County Sheriff's Office. The contract reflected a \$1.00/hour increase over the prior year.

Lastly, council received a letter from Waste Management regarding the increase cost of recycling due to the new material bans and 0.5% contamination limit by China, who is one of the world's largest importers of recycled products. The letter requested a one-time increase of \$1.03 per month per household to off-set these costs. Council took the letter under advisement and no further action was taken.

As I mentioned earlier it was a short meeting! Now to the year-end wrap. We had an eventful and prosperous 2018. Many things happened in Ely in 2018 including:

- Improvements to Well #2 bringing it back into operation giving the city a second water source.
- Adding an online payment service allowing the city to accept credit card payments.
- Hiring 2 new employees in Public Works, Chris (streets) & Tyler (grounds maintenance).

- Created a new Building Inspector position and hiring Mary, allowing the city to offer all building inspection services in-house.
- Implementing a new curbside brush pick-up service for residents.
- Approval of a new way finding sign on the south edge of town which will be installed in 2019. Welcome to Ely!
- Planting 25+ new trees at City Park.
- Implementing a text/phone emergency notification system for residents. Sign up at the bottom of the Ely home page!
- Updates to City Hall including new front doors and a new roof along with the removal of hundreds of bats in the attic!
- Updating the playground surface at Schulte Park.
- Construction began on a new micro brewery in downtown Ely along with new businesses going up on Main Street north of the Creamery.
- Opening of My Mom's Bakery downtown.
- Continual growth in the different developments around town.
- Completion of codification process creating a searchable link on the city website to review city ordinances.

With all these great things happening in 2018 we still have a lot of work to do and are looking forward to even more progress in 2019 including some major capital projects that encompass resurfacing State Street through town and improving water and sewer services.

I want to finish up by recognizing two groups. First off, our wonderful council. They work very hard to make Ely a better place to live and work. The work they do not only in council meetings, but in committees and countless volunteer hours has not gone unnoticed! I also want to recognize staff. Ely is very lucky to have the quality staff we have. They all have a passion for public service! In my opinion one of the greatest accomplishments we have made over the past three years is the bringing together such a quality staff to service our community!

As always, I appreciate you taking the time to get caught up. See you next year!

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