

## **A Look Back Before Moving Forward**

Every two years, the City of Ely staff and elected leaders work with the University of Iowa's Institute of Public Affairs to recognize previous accomplishments, acknowledge on-going commitments and set goals for the following 24 months. This process allows us as a community to reflect on some of Ely's biggest accomplishments as we look to begin a new budget year. The session was conducted with staff and City Council on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 and was open to the public.

Though there are numerous other projects expected to be completed this coming year, the Mayor and City Council Members reviewed potential new programs, policies and initiatives for consideration and selected the following as priorities for the upcoming 24-month period:

1. Improvements to State Street
2. Expand and improve water and sewer to the North end of the City (Including Vavra Drive)
3. Review Waste Water Treatment Plant and create a long-term service and replacement schedule
4. Study alternatives to renovate existing well or establish a new well for drinking water
5. Begin working on installing lights along the bike trail throughout town to increase safety after dark

The achievements listed on the following page of this summary are City accomplishments achieved over the last two years. These are things that we can all be proud of. As a community of just over 2,000 with only seven City staff members; four of them being public work officials, this extensive list is no small feat to accomplish in two years' time. As a community, we can take pride in knowing that we are moving forward together – tackling new projects each and every year in an effort to continue making Ely an amazing place to live.

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## City Operations/Facilities

- Created 4<sup>th</sup> Public Works position
- Updated Trash/Recycling services for the community
- Creation of a new City website and City-run social media outlets
- Updated the City billing/meter reading & operation software
- Hired a new City Administrator
- Purchased new mowers
- Updated the security system at the Public Works Building
- Created wayfinding signage
- Updates to City Hall - Bat removal & roof repairs
- Purchased a new pick up for Public Works
- Created a Recreation Coordinator /Social Media position
- Saw tremendous growth within the Library
- Made updates/repairs at the Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Authorized hiring a City building inspector
- Working to recodify and update City codes

## Economic Development

- Supported downtown revitalization
- Removed large intrusive trees from downtown sidewalks
- Increased involvement with downtown businesses

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## Infrastructure/Housing

- Extension of the sanitary sewer line on North Main Street to allow for commercial business growth along the bike trail
- Street Work:
  - Knoll Court/Ranmar & Intersection
  - Banner Valley
  - Southbrook
  - Street light updates
  - Repaired ditch for drainage at 1845 State Street
- Growth in development:
  - Creekside Development
  - Buresh Estates
  - Deer Valley Addition
- Annexing property north of town into Ely

## Parks & Recreation

- Installed security cameras at City Park & Schulte Park
- Purchased a new infield groomer
- Installed automatic locks at both pavilions
- Completed the Cedar Valley Nature Trail through Ely to Seven Sisters Road
- Hiring of a new Recreation Coordinator
- Purchased a Community Ice Skating Rink
- Celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Fest
- Cleaned up a great deal of the brush along the bike trail
- Continued expanding community events

We are fortunate to live in a community where we have the ability to make positive changes and move forward. As always, residents are encouraged to attend monthly City Council meetings and engage with elected City officials and staff in order to stay informed with accurate and up to date information. When in doubt, reach out to City Hall during normal business hours and we will be happy to help you find the information you are looking for.

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