



DATE: November 9, 2018
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Happy Friday Council! We are definitely transitioning to winter and this week saw our first practice round at plowing the streets. We make little tweaks each year as our public works crew reported a few weeks back. All went well with this first snow and we are now ready for this winter's onslaught (at least we hope that's the case).

I attended a Community Leaders Breakfast on Thursday morning hosted by the School District. The Town Council was represented by Councilors Schendler and Tennenbaum. The purpose of the meeting was to kick off a visioning process to gather new ideas for an update to their five-year old Strategic Plan.

Last week I participated in an emergency response exercise with our regional partners which included the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). We were able to work through a scenario that enabled interaction and discussion among the group. The facilitator had commented afterward that this region has done a great job of disaster preparedness and these exercises strengthen our ability to respond when a real need arises.

Both Christy Hamrick and I attended and she sat with the Finance group while I brainstormed with the Managers group. The Managers group came up with strategies for improving communication among jurisdictions during an event which will translate into improved communication to elected officials and the public.

The steering committee for the gun range has been set following a meeting attended by individuals who had expressed interest in the committee during the first two CPW sponsored meetings in August. The committee will consist of six individuals who will focus on both short and long term solutions for the range. I am not certain that a meeting has been set for this committee but they plan to disseminate information to the public as they move through assigned topics. I have not checked with CPW to ask if they will issue a press release.

Planning

- Master Plan – As you saw from last Thursday's Aspen Times, the P&Z met on October 30th and worked on the RFP for the Master Plan in preparation of meeting with the Council which is scheduled for next Tuesday.
- Annual Leaf Drop – As a reminder – there are only two weekends left for the annual leaf drop is underway, with remaining dates/locations including:
 - November 10/11 – Willits Rugby Field
 - November 17/18 – Southside Park

- Early Childhood Coalition – Sara spent considerable time assisting the Early Childhood Network (ENC) in its submittal to Eagle County to request for funding on six early childhood initiatives, related to:
 - Tuition assistance;
 - Quality Improvement;
 - Public Engagement;
 - Capacity Planning;
 - Coaching; and
 - Health.
- The RFP response was submitted on November 1st. Eagle County will inform ENC of any funds awarded on November 14th. The next meeting of the Early Childhood Coalition is on November 15th, where details of the 2019 work plan will be worked out in greater detail in relation to the funding awarded. The Early Childcare Coalition is scheduled to present their 2019 workplan to the Council on November 27th.
- Charge Ahead Colorado – Sara also spent considerable time preparing the grant request to the Department of Energy, which she submitted on October 30th. The Town’s grant asked for a fast charge Level 3 50 kw charging station to be located in the same area the current Level 2 station is found, in the parking area of the Town Hall buildings. If the grant request is successful, Holy Cross has already introduced to Staff a program where they will upgrade the existing transformer and associated connecting lines for the charging stations at no cost to the Town.
- NWCCOG Meeting – Watkins and Councilor Infante attended the NWCCOG Meeting Thursday, November 1st. NWCCOG informed members that it will be implementing a more rigorous elevator inspection program with more enforcement next year. The budget is scheduled to be approved on December 6. Members were updated by a representative of Senator Bennett, who discussed the Farm Bill, legalization of hemp, a new program proposed to allow the USFS to dispense of unwanted parcels, and a hopeful fix for the USFS’s firefighting budget in 2020. A 120-unit affordable housing project was discussed during member updates in which was funded by Vail and located in Edwards.
- BPAC – Watkins attended the 11/1 BPAC meeting, in which they discussed the 2019 Town budget and potential 2019 and 2020 BPAC projects. BPAC is planning to attend the 11/27 Town Council meeting to discuss projects. BPAC is also seeking new members after recent departures due to job changes and terms having ended.
- Development Review/Enforcement items – The Planning Staff has had to deal with some land use compliance issues and a CORA request regarding an enforcement issue and land use application that was submitted, which has taken up considerable time. Staff has been spending considerable time working through some Willits issues associated with the Development and PUD Control document. Also considerable time was spent on the Stott’s Mill Development as the Developer works to record the plat and other legal documents.

Police

- Officer Jordan Hilkey attended a four day conference in Keystone that was hosted by the Colorado Association for Victims Assistance (COVA). Officer Hilkey received a scholarship that paid for her registration fee and hotel costs. The COVA Conference is one of the largest victim services conference in the country. Over the four days, 1000+ attendees learn best practices, case law and new skills for serving victims of crime.

- We held our fifth Community Police Academy class. Eighteen students learned about crime scene processing, evidence collection, and chain of custody. Attendees processed mock crime scenes to practice their newly learned investigative skills.
- Officer Ernie Mack met with 80 children at The Temporary to discuss Halloween safety. The kids were given LED lights to wear on Halloween night. On Halloween night, Officers and the Chief were in the neighborhoods helping to keep Trick-or-Treaters safe.
- We increased staffing for the Basalt High School football game when they played Aspen two weeks ago as well as last Saturday. Both were great wins by Basalt and we look forward to assisting at the second round state playoff game on Saturday. Go Longhorns!

Public Works

- Public works crews have been busy installing holiday lighting and decorations in preparation for the tree lighting on December 1st. We have started in Willits with lighting, garland and bows.
- The sidewalk on the south side of Ponderosa Park (seed garden) has been repaired and improved. The panels that were damaged were replaced to make them attractive, safe and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.