



DATE: January 5, 2018
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The Town staff has been back to it this week keeping busy with a number of tasks. This is the time of year that we begin bidding projects to secure our building season work. It is going to be a busy construction season throughout Town. Willits will see the construction of East Valley Road traffic calming, roundabout maintenance, and the Block 3 residential project. In downtown Basalt we will have the whitewater park improvements and Two Rivers road enhancements associated with the Roaring Fork Conservancy project. We will provide more information on the progress of those efforts as we get closer to spring.

We have been getting many positive reports on the new park enhancements in Linear Park. One report estimated about 40 people hanging around (parents included) all having fun in the snow and in the playground.

I wanted to remind you all of the CML training opportunity on March 21st in Denver. I think it would be great if we could get a group of us to head over. This could be both a bonding opportunity and a great way to learn from the experts at CML and CIRSA. I am hoping that with enough lead time, several of you could make arrangements in your work schedules to join the group. I will provide more detail at the Council meeting.

We still need to have our social capital subcommittee get together to make recommendations on the distribution of grants. One option would be for the finance committee to take the lead. I know that we had mentioned using the same group as last year but we thought we would pose the question to see what you all thought. I will ask for direction from you all at the Council meeting.

The Town had its first big snow event a little over a week ago and with it came only one complaint. I investigated it to better understand our snow removal processes. The complaint was about the clean up after the snow event and the late hour that it was occurring. We hire a loader operator to help pick up snow in the downtown area and move it to our snow storage area in Merino Park. These efforts began around 10 pm and lasted to 12:30 am. Here are the facts that I learned:

- We could have the operator out during the day but it would take approximately twice the amount of time to do the same job. This is due to the fact that there are a lot of cars and people to maneuver around
- Doing the clean up when the cars have moved allows for a more thorough removal of snow piles
- We started on the removal right away because the freeze/thaw adds to icy conditions on our street. We have had to get graders in to cut the ice when left in place too long. (There was a question as to why we needed to get it done so quickly given that no more storms were expected)
- Main Street business owners have complained that the noise affects their business and the cars are still in place anyway until they close

- We generally have to do this about four times per year
- There is an increased potential during the day for a pedestrian or auto accident since the loader movements require so much backing up

This information will likely not do anything to help our resident that was kept awake during the process but trying to find balance between public safety, cost, efficiency, business interests and resident’s quiet enjoyment has been the catalyst for this conclusion. I will continue to investigate complaints as they come in and share the information with you.

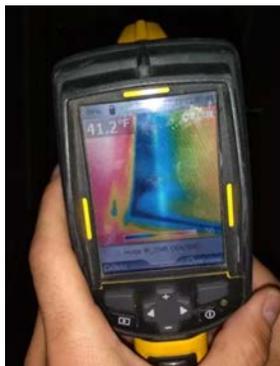
Planning

Development Review – The Arbaney Kittle Final PUD Plan and the Jadwin Sketch Plan applications are before the Council at Tuesday January 9th meeting. Staff has been having considerable discussions with the Willits Developer regarding the recommended conditions for the Willits Town Center approvals. It is hopeful that we can come to agreement on the major items of approval before the Council resumes its discussion on January 23rd. The 525 Basalt Avenue Apartment Application (18 apartment) is on hold. The Developer is looking at other options and is working with the Owner’s Association to see if there is a development proposal that is not objectionable. Therefore, Staff did not put the public hearing on for continuation on the Council’s agenda. A land use application in the Basalt Industrial Park off of Willits Lane is working its way through the application completeness process.

East Valley Road Traffic Calming - The bid documents for the traffic improvements have been prepared by Loris. Ryan Mahoney and Susan Philp are attending the Sopris Meadows One HOA meeting on Monday January 8th to update the HOA on the process. The Public Works Department will be taking over the management of the project from here on.

Pitkin County Whitewater Park – The Town Manager has taken the lead coordinating role with Pitkin County. The Town Manager and Planning Department Staff are meeting next week to review Pitkin County’s ideas for additional streamside improvements in preparation for a meeting with a subset of Council members/Commissioner which will follow. The work starting in the river on Town property is being approved administratively.

Town Committees – The Town’s boards and committees are starting their 2018 meetings and work programs. We will be bringing recommendations from those groups as they are ready. By way of example, the Green Team is planning on bringing amendments to the Town’s sustainability regulations to the Council in the near future. A blower test will be conducted on the Art Base/Planning Department building on Monday which is a first step in fixing air leakages occurring in that building.



Public Works

Public works is in the process of taking the holiday decorations down. We plan on taking the garland and wreath down first and letting people enjoy the lights as long as possible.

Public Works is busy working with Planning and other staff to get the 2018 capital projects off the ground. The big projects will be East Valley traffic calming, the Willits round about pavement improvements and the maintenance on one of the Town's water storage tanks.

A new door has been installed at Town Hall in the administrative area as a security measure and to help define the public and private areas in Town Hall. It was installed by Public Works staff that put in some extra effort after hours to get the job completed. There are still some finishing touches left to do but it is looking great so far.

We will be out next week with the street sweeper to pick up gravel that was laid down during the last snow event.