

February 19, 2025 City Manager's Report

Good evening, everyone! ~ I hope you're all staying warm! It's been a busy last few months! All the office staff have been participating in various Webinar training and Zoom meetings to gain more knowledge of our duties and the work that we are doing. We will continue to take advantage of these free training opportunities.

Fire Dept. No fires reported this month. Update on SCERP meetings and Red Book-Flood Preparation meeting dates? I plan to have our office staff allocate 2-3 afternoons each week, to clean out and prepare the Office of Emergency Management office. For future use for our SCERP meetings, SAR meetings and a place for all volunteers to meet for any emergency that arises. We would also keep all Search and Rescue/Fire supplies needed. We will also maintain a list of volunteers that have helped in past emergencies. For the FY25 budget year I am planning to hire a part-time employee to help get it started at the beginning of the year, and we would still apply for the SAFER Grant funding to recruit and retain volunteers as time allows.

Public Works Department-The guys continue to keep up with the roads, landfill and sewer issues as they come up. I've been told by a few people how happy they are with the road conditions. Great job guys! Even during the week, we had been dumped with snow and our grader was down, they were able to use the plow truck and bobcat to keep the roads maintained.

For our Solid Waste Grant Landfill Project-through ANTHC, Denali Commission and IIHS- a \$274,015 project-We have recently approved of equipment we would like to purchase for a #10 Burn Cage Unit, a Skid Steer, 6 large Fish Totes (for collection) and signage for the Landfill. We will need to work on a new design for the Landfill, of where and how this will be incorporated in our Landfill and how/what/where we will be collecting solid waste, as well as what new signage we will need posted to help inform the community for this new addition to the Landfill.

This summer, for the Levee, there is much brush cutting and clearing at the end of the runway that needs to be done. We will need to work with the Army Corp. of Engineers to help clear up Encroachment Issues. We need to look into where we can get big/large rocks for the section at the end of the runway that is eroding. I've spoken with Jason Ward at ATC, he's their Fire Grants Coordinator, and he may be able to help with funding for clearing the levee.

Roads-We are in need of GRAVEL!!! D1" minus grade. For the roads and the Landfill. I filled out a quick application request for a Large Loader to help with this process as well as to help clear and move snow in the winter.

Sewer Utility- We need to look into an Expansion Project-Housing for 4 Units and possibly at the Airport- I haven't had time yet to review the Small Claims process, but it is on my list.

Library-I am still researching how other entities are merging their libraries with schools, but it will be a long process. We would require public consensus, voter approval, planning for functions, responsibilities, operational costs and plans, eligibility of state and federal grants and lots of support from both entities. I have emailed some information that was sent to me so far, but it is numerous pages. So please remember to check your emails regularly. So, depending on what the council and public decides to do, I will continue to apply for grants needed to operate the library. I also have reviewed the job posting and description for the Librarian and removed the Library Aide position. I have this position budget for FY25 as well.

Finance Report- I have reviewed FY24 Budget and expenditures. I will next review the FY23 Budget to have it ready for March's regular meeting and a Public Hearing for approval. There are a number of grant projects we can look into, but our main economic development projects should include Housing, Sewer Upgrades, Levee Maintenance, Flood Mitigation and ROW issues, Fire Department volunteers and the maintenance of the Landfill. All these things take staff and hours working. I have a projected budget for staff in all areas which I am hoping to get approval in April.

I also will start Employee Evaluations this next month, and I am requesting the Council to also get my evaluation completed before next months meeting. This way, I will have solid numbers to plan for FY25.