

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT JUNE General

Began position on June 1, 2022

Completed hiring paperwork.

Met with the mayor for a general review of operations and then went for a site visit to the Chase/Wilson Road culvert project. Mike introduced me to Todd Boris, engineer, and member of the roads committee and who was also looking at the needs for the upcoming project.

Additionally, I have been meeting regularly with Tom and/or Mike to:

Review the FY 23 budget and received an overview of the annual procedures and activities with which to formulate the final budget document for council approval. I previously read the budget narrative and then asked for explanations on several components and processes for city functions, including some historical information for more overall comprehension.

Review projects that are in planning stages, are near completion, or are in the process of being closed out. Went with Todd and Tom to check out where culverts and ditching work is planned on Same Old Road. There are still projects and activities to learn about.

Opened bid for Tong Road project last Friday

Tom explained expectations on reporting to the council for the work sessions and the general sessions.

Met with Phoebe to:

Review the CIP document and processes for its development.

Segued from there into an explanation of the financial reports, how to understand the various funding sources, investment accounts, and the when and why of moving an NCO for approval.

Staff meeting:

With the mayor and department employees to make/remake acquaintances and to listen to department reports and settle on consistent dates and times for regular staff meetings.

Summer Reading Program Kickoff:

LeAnn graciously held a meet and greet for the first part of the Summer Reading Program kickoff. Was great to see familiar faces and the new organization of the library with the carrels and furniture stations.

Election/Voting:

The mayor and I trained with Karen/City Clerk to learn the process for letting folks either cast ballots here or dropping off their mail-in ballots for us to mail. She will be away for a couple of days. She additionally detailed the ballot security measures.

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FEMA/State Emergency Management:

Created an account on the FEMA Grants Portal.

Had a brief tutorial on the FEMA Portal with our contact at Military and Veterans affairs. Not the most user friendly and will take quite a while to get comfortable with all the aspects and requirements for processing the FEMA projects. Submitted Initial Obligating Document for the Wilson Road Culvert and other requisite designation paperwork to reflect the change in City Administrator.

Lack of phone service complaint 6/3:

I know this has been ongoing for years, however, last Friday afternoon I received a call from a community member regarding the abysmal cell coverage and how it was an area wide problem for individuals and businesses alike. He said the providers are not service compliant and that it is a big enough issue that the city should take the lead to urge (mostly ATT) to get it solved. A letter or resolution from council may be in order. He also mentioned something about a letter from Utility Provider Service, but I am not clear yet what organization that is.

I discussed with him the thread on Gustavus Rumor Mill regarding a request for a marine quality cell phone signal booster the suggestions people offered. He is adamant – and correctly so- IMHO- that the bigger problem needs to be resolved.

I reached out to Matt Musselwhite who thinks we should contact the Lena Point Tech. I also contacted Bert Cottle. Bert is the Community Outreach Manager who works for the Governor with Alaska municipalities. I impressed upon him the safety and business issues and the consistent lack of response from AT&T. He told me he would investigate this and either get back to me or have someone higher up the food chain from AT&T call me. I have no idea how this will unfold, but hopefully we can rattle the right cages towards a resolution.

Yesterday, the External Affairs Director for Alaska AT&T called me to discuss the situation and posed several questions, some of which were technical in nature. Whitney, who is familiar with a lot of the tower/GIS information graciously offered to contact him with a better explanation of the area and has already provided him a stellar technical synopsis of the issues. He will be sending on to his engineering and operations team for their review and will let us know what he hears. Meanwhile, Bert Cottle called as I was updating this report and told me to expect a call from a GCI representative as well. He also suggested I contact the outreach coordinator at Senator Murkowski's office to see if any of the infrastructure funds might be available for a tower. He told me the City of Wasilla erected two towers and they lease space/service to the providers. Stay tuned...

Work Session Monday 6/6:

Attended first City of Gustavus Work session and presented what I have been doing in my first few days.