



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of March 11, 2024

Title/Subject

Recognizing the dedicated staff of the Street Department for their role in protecting public safety, the economy, and the environment.

Summary and Background

The City's Street network is one of the most fundamental parts of our community's infrastructure, upon which nearly all aspects of our local economy depend.

City streets and sidewalks connect students to classrooms, workers to jobs, businesses to customers and suppliers, and local industries to global markets.

Upwards of 30,000 people per day depend on Hermiston city streets to help them get to their destinations, and our Street Department staff help ensure that they arrive safely by diligently maintaining thousands of Stop signs, street signs, traffic control devices, crosswalks, pavement markings, and many more.

In addition to making sure the roadways are safe when the weather is nice, our dedicated Streets crew is always prepared to respond when the snow flies to make sure that the streets remain passable and safe throughout the winter months. This requires constant attention to changing conditions, and many very late nights and very early mornings away from their own families, clearing snow and ice, to help the rest of us continue on with our lives getting the kids to school, making critical appointments, or heading to work to earn a living. Just one day of school or business closures costs Hermiston area families approximately \$2.3 million in lost wages. Those wages are protected by our Street Department Staff clearing, plowing, and de-icing over 150 miles of roadway, or nearly 25 miles each.

Of course, snow isn't the only precipitation which falls on our City Streets, which is why our staff work constantly to maintain more than 400 drywells, collection boxes, piping, lift stations, and other infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff across the 3,000 acre expanse of the City. Constant street sweeping keeps our community looking clean and prevents material from creating blockages and floods, but more importantly, this serves a critical function in keeping our area's water clean. Pollution from dripping vehicles that attaches to dirt, sand, and debris is prevented from entering our community's rivers, streams, and groundwater thanks to the continued work of our staff.

Therefore, because of all of this, and the many other ways that they help make life sweet in Hermiston, we want to recognize and thank:

- Adam Cline, Municipal Service Lead
- Alan Phillips, Municipal Service Worker
- Gabriel Zacharias, Mechanic
- Isaac Barajas, Municipal Service Worker
- Jacob Noyes, Municipal Service Worker
- Ron Sivey, Street Superintendent

- **Tie-In to Council Goals**

Focus Area- Wellness: a Healthy Community

Fiscal Information

N/a

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

Recommended Action/Motion

Submitted By:

Mark Morgan, Assistant City Manager