

CITY OF NEW MEADOWS MAYOR'S REPORT

December 11, 2023

Another winter is upon us and it is a strange one. Rain, then snow, then rain. Please encourage patience as we deal with what this erratic weather does to our streets and roads.

The Christmas Tree Lighting and Night Light Parade event was a great success. We received excellent positive feedback on this community event. The Parks and Rec Committee did an amazing job putting everything together and they reviewed what worked and what needs to be tweaked next year to make it even more fun for the whole family.

I spent the day on December 4th, along with others who knew and loved Rory and Sara Mehen, at the sentencing hearing for John Cody Hart who had pled guilty to two counts of murder. It was a very emotional and exhausting day filled with reminders of how one person's decisions can affect so many lives. I was able to share the great impact this event had on the community with the court. Several family members gave victim impact statements. The judge's sentence was disappointing, but the community and family will have the opportunity to appear in 30 years, when Mr. Hart could be eligible for parole, to remind the parole board of the terrible crime that was committed and the impact it had on our lives. Hopefully, Mr. Hart will experience life in prison and any attempt to be released on parole will be denied.

As we move forward into the New Year, there are many projects on the horizon. Ongoing issues with seepage at the wastewater plant and the need for upgrades to remain in compliance with DEQ will require a new facility plan to determine what needs to be done. Kirk is working on the Letter to submit to DEQ for potential funding for the wastewater system.

I have asked Kyla to look into a grant to upgrade the heating system and energy efficiency at City Hall. We have received bids in the past that were beyond what the City has available to fund. A grant is needed to get this project done and save money on power bills moving forward.

Kyla and I have been discussing the annexation process and will be walking through that process in the next few months. I met with the City Engineer and discussed the easement needed to bring sewer access to the property to be annexed.

Troy Black and I met with the developers of the Crossroads lots and Brundage representatives to come up with a plan to create an additional access to the property, as requested by the city. Dave Elledge will request the architects to update the plan to show that access and that will be presented to the city once it is completed.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill