

Date: April 6, 2023

To: Glenn Steckman, City Manager

CC: City Clerk

Cheryl Thompson, Administrative Assistant

From: Cole Cushman, Public Works Supervisor

Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal year 22-23 4th Quarter

Road Crew

The road crew has had equipment problems this last quarter, almost all the way around. They have had to switch equipment out and do some of the tasks using alternative methods. This, in addition to the slow breakup, has slowed the progress in some of the task, such as getting the winter garbage covered, and working on drainage. Some of the equipment issues were made worse by the supply issues which have been affecting everyone. Once the snow melted, the crew had roads which were in poor condition from coming out of last fall's wetness. It became necessary to using oversized rock (3/4"-2") to fill some of the deeper holes and give structure to soft roads. The crew graded, repaired and added calcium for dust control as the roads became workable.

The crew had a race against the barges in late May and early June to get the City Dock repaired from typhoon Merbock's damage. It was necessary to excavate around a thousand yards of mixed sand and debris and bring in a similar amount of pit run, road material and crushed aggregate. The City Dock was ready before the first barge. As part of the City Dock project, the crew repaired the jersey rails at the causeway bridge to make that portion of the road a little safer. The road crew has also been working on some of the other FEMA projects including the South Wall/East Ramp area. The crew was also tasked with a repair of the barge ramp and had to create a special modification to the high deck trailer to achieve this.



As always, the road crew did their annual U Call/We Haul, City Cleanup Day, set up for Memorial Day, Midnight Sun & 4th of July activities, and pitched in to help install the floating docks.

Building Maintenance

The maintenance crew lost their foreman this quarter, and has been learning to work together. They have overcome a few issues with the buildings and are working on a few projects as time allows. Among these projects is pressure washing and staining the outside of the morgue and doing repairs on the public works shop. They are also assisting Polar Pools with the swimming pool as needed.

One of the challenges they have had has been the removal of everything from the second and third floor of the public works building. This all had to be sorted into what was being kept and put into connexes and what had to be thrown away. They have also stripped the walls and ceiling of the third floor down to bare studs/trusses. This work will continue onto the second floor and the crew is working on a couple changes in the interior layout so it better accommodates what public works has evolved into. This includes moving the break room and office to the second floor, adding bathrooms and expanding the available first floor space for equipment and maintenance. Building maintenance has picked up a couple high schoolers from Jill Peter's Summer Work Program and has them building a "buck and rail" fence at the cemetery with Fish and Game and helping clean out the building at the monofill.



Landfill

As happens every year, the landfill was a bit of a mess after breakup. The windblown trash covered the surrounding tundra and plugged up the fences and the wet stink was actually visible. A broken dozer slowed the process of getting the garbage covered, and made it necessary to move another dozer out there. The entire department pitched in and did a cleanup of the area around the landfill and then helped out getting the winter garbage consolidated and covered.

Moving Forward

Public Works has no shortage of projects to complete this year. From FEMA projects to building upgrades to recreational facility improvements, there is enough for the crews to stay busy and then some. Each side of public works is trying to take care of the outside activities every day it's possible and do the inside jobs when the weather doesn't cooperate. This upcoming year is already full of challenges for Public Works to step up and face.

