

Manager's Message

Receiving a nice snow in December and having a white Christmas made the Winter Holidays seem a little more enjoyable and festive than in recent years. I want to again congratulate the winners of this year's Christmas decorating contest that were announced on the Everbridge message system on December 23rd along with everyone in the community that decorated their homes and yards.

I realize that the Town needs to do a better job decorating Main Street so I'm working with our Xcel Energy Regional Manager to get permission to install new plugins and allow the Town to purchase and mount new decorations on most of the power poles. My thought is to have new Christmas decorations on most or all of the power poles along Main Street and then mount the current Holiday wreaths along the power poles on Grand Avenue from Town Hall to Sterkel Blvd. Our Xcel Energy Regional Manager has been good to work with so far so I anticipate we'll be able to work out something to improve next year's decorations and light up Main Street more than ever.

The snowpack for the South Platte Basin is looking good so far at approximately 102% but much more snow is needed in order to keep us from having water restrictions this summer. The Town is currently on a 40% quota for C-BT water use which is fine during the winter months but once spring arrives will become a serious issue if the quota isn't increased. Discussing water can be very complicated but generally speaking the Town owns 869 shares of Colorado Big Thompson (C-BT) water which is operated and maintained through the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and treated and delivered to the Town by the Central Weld County Water District. At a 40% quota the Town is authorized to use approximately 347 shares of C-BT which is not enough water to supply the community throughout the entire year without

some restrictions, especially restricting outside irrigation in the warm summer months. In most years the Northern Water Board typically sets the winter quota at 50% and then increases the quota during the April Spring Users meeting to approximately 70%-90% but sometimes more or less depending on water storage levels, snowpack and anticipated demand from the system (all users). Again, this is a complicated topic but basically the more snow we receive and having a higher percentage of mountain snowpack the better our quota will likely be for water use as our state is very reliant on mountain snow and reservoir storage.

In last month's newsletter I also mentioned the 18% increase in water rates that are needed to offset the increases from CWCWD with additional 5% increased in 2024 & 2025. What this specifically means is that the usage rate per 1,000 gallons will increase from \$3.19 to \$3.76 up to 15,000 gallons and increase from \$3.74 to \$4.41 for gallons used over 15,001 to 25,000 gallons. The Town uses a tiered system so using less than 15,000 gallons per month will keep your water bill the lowest. Water base rates will also increase from \$36.02 to \$42.40 per month with the 18% increase. To provide a quick example if you calculate a monthly water use of 10,000 gallons using the increased rates as previously mentioned it will result in a cost increase of \$12.08 with a water usage increase of \$5.70 and base rate increase of \$6.38. As for the rest of the utility bill the sewer base and usage rates will increase 2%, which will likely be the normal annual increase, but the sidewalk, street light and trash fees are the same amounts as last year. I focused on the

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(970) 785-2245
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Police Dept.

(970) 785-2215
Non-Emergency Dispatch:
(970) 356-1212
Emergency: 911

Public Works Dept.

(970) 785-6415

Recreation & Seniors

(970)785-2245 x. 1101
(720) 438-0711

Platteville/Gilcrest Fire Protection District

303 Main Street
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2232

Pioneer Museum

502 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-6285
Mon & Wed 10:00am-3:00pm
Sat. 10:00-2:00pm

Public Library

504 Marion Ave./PO Box 567
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231
Mon – Fri 10:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm
www.PPLCO.us

Nantes Library (Gilcrest)

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035
Mon-Fri 10:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm
www.nanteslibrary.us

Manager's Message (cont.)

utility bill this month as the new rates that I mentioned will go into effect in the February billing for the January use calculations and many of you will notice the difference. If anyone has further questions regarding the water and sewer rates increases please contact either myself or the utility clerk, Charlyn Reck, to address questions and provide further explanation as needed.

Another topic I wanted to focus on to start the new year is capital projects and what the Town will be pursuing once the weather gets warm. Each year the Town tries to complete as many street improvements as the budget will allow and the past two years we completed three large projects include the reconstruction of Reynolds Avenue, constructing the new South Front Street connecting CR32 to CR30, and rebuilding Buck Rake Blvd and removing the center landscape median. These projects alone cost around \$2,500,000 but we were able to pay for them without going into debt and also received financial assistance from CDOT for South Front Street. This year's large street project will be the repaving of Grand Avenue from US85 to Sterkel Blvd and constructing a new sidewalk on the north side of the roadway from Town Hall to the crosswalk near River Road. Funding was also budgeted to complete annual asphalt patching throughout the community as needed and to chip seal both the Old Homestead and Rodgers Farm subdivisions. If bids for these projects come in better than expected I'm hoping there are funds remaining so we can chip seal the side streets between Division Blvd and Vasquez Blvd, especially around both schools, as these streets haven't been improved in several years and could use some repairs.

Funding was budgeted this year to complete the Comprehensive Plan Update which will include changes to the water regulations regarding C-BT dedication and landscaping requirements. This plan is partially funded by grants from DOLA and the Sonoran Institute and an extension until the end of March was granted to allow more time to complete the plan and code amendments. Other funding will go towards several projects the community won't see or notice as they involve upgrading the Town Hall computer server system and installing a new financial software management program along with various computer licensing upgrade requirements.

Even though street and sidewalk improvements are normally the priority we don't want to ignore our parks and recreation amenities. Several years ago the playground was replaced in Lincoln Park and this year we'll replace the old metal picnic tables with either new metal or preferable concrete tables. All of the playgrounds in Lincoln, Riverview, Coronado and Rodger Farm Parks will receive new ADA handicap ramps so both children and adults can better access the equipment from the concrete to the wood chips surfaces. The most exciting park project involves the Parks, Trails & Trees Committee working with a consultant to complete a River Open Space Master Plan for the 8-acre parcel the Town acquired near CR32.5 and CR23 immediately north of the bridge. After all of these years the residents will be able to access the South Platte River at this location to observe wildlife and enjoy the river corridor. A parking area will be made at the site but a trail is also being designed along CR32.5 to connect the open space area to Rodgers Farm Park to allow pedestrian access. Several other park improvement projects include new landscaping and fencing along the ball field parking lot area along Reynolds Avenue and contracting with SAVATree to complete Ash Borer treatment in all of the parks.

The last significant capital project I'll mention this month is the Mizpah Cemetery expansion design. The Town's contract engineering firm and another irrigation consultant will be working to complete the design of the cemetery expansion to the east of the Veterans Memorial as there's only enough burial plots remaining for another 2-3 years based upon the average number of plots sold. A conceptual design was completed this past year but additional surveying and engineering is needed to finalize the design for Board approval. Once the expansion design is completed the improvements will likely be pursued in 2024.

There are other capital projects budgeted for this year that I'll include in the updated Capital Improvement Plan which will be ready for review in a few weeks. Have a great start of the New Year!