

Manager's Message

Now that a long, hotter and dryer than usual summer has come to an end the Town moves into our annual budget preparation time to develop an operational and capital project budget for the upcoming year. This process takes several months before the Board of Trustees adopts the budget by the December 15th statutory deadline. I write about this every year at this time because it's one of the most important aspects of government operations along with developing effective policies and regulations. The budget that staff develops and presents to the Board for review and consideration impacts all areas of government operations ranging from how the Town provides water and wastewater utility services to other important functions including police, public facility and infrastructure maintenance and recreation, senior citizen and library services. During the first week of September I work with the Town's contract accountant to develop budget worksheets for each department director to complete that I then collect the last week of the month to develop into the overall operating and capital budget. The first draft budget is then submitted to the Board during the first regular meeting of October followed by the Board and staff completing a day-long workshop to review all aspects of the budget for each department. It's a detailed and lengthy process that the public can be involved in as I strive to provide a transparent and conservative-based budget for all aspects of Town operations.

There are several vacancies on the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission and the Town will accept applications from interested residents for the next few weeks for appointment consideration. The Trustee position has a remaining term to the next Municipal Election in April 2026 and the Planning Commissioner position can be a continual term by appointment of the Board. The Board meets regularly the first and third Tuesdays of each month and the Planning Commission only

meets when there is a land use or zoning application that needs consideration. Anyone who has resided within the town limits of Platteville for the past year or more, is 18 years of age or older, and does not have a felony criminal record can qualify for either position. Please contact the Town Clerk to obtain a brief application or to get additional information about the positions. The Mayor and Board will consider applicants during either the September 17th or October 1st regular meetings.

The power outages our community has been experiencing the past few months (and years) is extremely frustrating and many residents have contacted me about their concerns which I appreciate. During the August 20th Board meeting I asked the Xcel Energy Regional Public Relations Manager to attend and address this issue with the Board which he did along with the Colorado President of Xcel. I respect the fact that Xcel representatives tried to address our concerns in person but ultimately we're still having outages that impact many aspects of our community. I will continue contacting Xcel to hopefully resolve the continual power outages but honestly believe it will take some time as I know Xcel has infrastructure improvements that need to be made. This also impacts those of you who are pursuing the installation of home solar systems as the Xcel grid or system won't accept these systems at this time. If anyone is approached by a solar company to install these systems please be very cautious and verify with Xcel first that the solar system can be connected to the grid to provide the rebates as these systems are not inexpensive and I don't want anyone being taken advantage of.

Town Departments

Administration

400 Grand Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2245
Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm
www.plattevillegov.org

Police Dept.

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

Public Works Dept.

(970) 785-6415
After Hours:
(970) 304-2534

Recreation & Seniors

508 Reynolds Avenue
(720) 438-0711

Pioneer Museum

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

Ft. Vasquez Museum Welcome Center

13412 US85
(970) 785-2832
Wed, Sat, Sun 10am-3pm

Public Library

504 Marion Ave./PO Box 567
(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.)

During the past few years the Town has taken a more aggressive approach and has acquired several parcels of land to complete future development opportunities to benefit the community. The Town first purchased the 16-acre parcel of undeveloped land located directly south of the energy park between Main Street and Division Blvd to develop much needed storm drainage ponds along with available retail and commercial business lots. The storm drainage ponds were built along the Division Blvd side of the property to collect storm water from the Reed Subdivision north of Grand Avenue. On the Main Street side of the property the Town platted three commercial lots that are currently for sale to attract new retail opportunities. The lots haven't gained much interest yet so a new advertising approach will be taken next year to hopefully attract new business to our community.

The second land acquisition the Town completed several years ago was purchasing the 5-acre property located at the northwest corner of Division Blvd and Reynolds Ave directly east of the Community Center and ballfields. This property was purchased for future expansion of the complex for recreational amenities including fields for soccer and football along with a fieldhouse or recreation facility. The Town also completed a Community Complex Master Plan that shows existing and new facilities that also include a small t-ball and softball field, tennis or pickle ball courts and walking path around the Complex. Due to a pursuit of establishing a Viking Nation Recreation District by a group of residents from Platteville, Gilcrest and Lasalle the Master Plan has been put on hold until the Town knows more on how the possible new district will impact the community.

The third and most recent land purchase occurred earlier this summer when the Town acquired the former Platte River Farms subdivision located south of Highway 66 between Main Street and the South Platte River. This property was platted as a 100 home subdivision in 2005 but never was developed. For the past eight years I've been in contact with the owner to see if the Town could acquire the land which we finally did at a very reasonable price. The property consists of approximately 77 acres with just over 27 acres along the river in the floodplain that will be developed into a nature trail or similar amenity

while the remaining 50 acres will be developed or sold for commercial/industrial, large-lot residential and retail/commercial opportunities. The Public Works Director and I have met with several developers to discuss various ideas on how to best use the property and the Board was also approached by several large companies that want to relocate to our community. This property brings exciting possibilities for some controlled and realistic growth that can benefit our community. A local resident owns the 3-acres at the southwest corner of Highway 66 & Main Street next to the Town-owned property and the Town is working closely with the owner to help bring new businesses to that property as well. Of course traffic congestion near Highway 66 and Main Street is an issue so I'm also working with CDOT to improve this area and construct a permanent traffic signal with turning lanes that will greatly improve traffic circulation. As you can see there's a lot of positive opportunities that are being worked on that I anticipate will start developing in the next few years.

As I focus on growth and development opportunities in this month's newsletter I also need to mention several annexations into the town that will likely occur in the next year. There's a 27-acre parcel located on the northwest corner of Highway 66 & CR19 that wants to annex into the town and develop a 9-lot industrial subdivision. The property owner has submitted an annexation petition that was accepted by the Board and the development will be called Platte View Industrial Park. Two other likely annexations involve a 40-acre industrial property on CR38 located east of CR23 in which the owner wants to develop several industrial or commercial lots and another developer who is pursuing a large-lot business subdivision directly north of CR34 on the west side of Highway 85. Most of the development opportunities involve industrial and commercial development with a smaller interest is residential development. I think all of us knew that development would eventually occur in Platteville and the next few years positive changes will occur as new businesses come in along with new housing opportunities that will be controlled and manageable growth.