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CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

I hope everyone is managing to stay safe during this unpleasant weather. For the first time that I can remember we closed City Hall due to extremely icy roads. Thank you Mayor Blackwell, City Staff appreciated the Mayor's concern for our well being as well as not having to take the chance of being one of those unfortunate individuals stuck on the side of the road.

This weather also has provided a challenge with our water meters. As meters were converted to the new electronic models they were no longer being insulated. We did experience a handful of these meters that froze due to the temperatures, Public Works Staff was able to respond fairly quickly to those customers to restore water service. And as if the weather hasn't been challenging enough, the meter reading equipment broke down leaving approximately 100 meters unable to be read. Those accounts were prorated for the February bill, we hope this has not caused too much of an inconvenience for our customers.

Hopefully we have made it through the worst of this winter and we can look forward to more agreeable weather in the next few weeks. Here is what I have been working on this past month:

- There is still a vacancy on the Board for the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission provides essential review and recommendations on planning-related matters to the City Council. This is a volunteer position and meets on an "as-needed" basis. This is a great opportunity to provide input to help make Connell a better place. Anyone interested in serving on the Board may write a letter addressed to the Mayor.
- In anticipation of opening the City pool this summer, City Staff would like to encourage certified lifeguards who are interested in working for the City of Connell to contact City Hall. Those interested in guarding, but not currently certified, may request to be put on a list to be notified of upcoming training.
- Along with Mayor Blackwell and Chief Turner, met with Teamsters Union representatives.
- I submitted a Hotel/Motel application in the amount of \$2,640 to request the last of the funding for the float construction that was initiated in the 2015 fiscal year budget. After the parade season of using the new float, the Float Committee was hoping to assess and address any redesigning or changes that they felt were needed to it after seeing how it worked through its first season. They are asking to use the remaining balance that was allocated in the 2016 FY Budget which was a carryover from the 2015 FY Budget's initial allocation.
- Continuing to work on updating the City's Personnel Policy with the recommendations provided by Attorney Hultgrenn.

- The City received notice that our DWSRF application for a new well was selected for funding. Staff is working with Anderson Perry and Department of Health.

We also received notice that our DWSRF application for the South Side Water Mains Improvements was not funded.

Public Works Director Turner will have an update on water projects at an upcoming Council meeting.

- Progress is being made in regards to the Railroad Interchange. The design agreement is being reviewed by WSDOT and BNSF. BNSF is working on the RFP and is expecting this to be completed mid to late February.

I submitted a \$10,000 grant application to Franklin County for .09 money to pay for a Cost Benefit Analysis. This CBA will be useful when applying for grants for the remaining \$14 million necessary to complete the project.

- Attended the retirement for Judge Robert Swisher, former City Attorney for the City of Connell.
- Attended the Port of Pasco ribbon cutting ceremony for their expanded facilities.
- Attended the Annual Chamber Banquet. Congratulations to Stephanie Melgren, Kimberly Brandner, and Carolyn & Florian Nordhus, our People of the Year!
- Held monthly department head meeting.
- Connell University:
Due to the bad weather last month the Building/Planning presentation was postponed to this coming Monday, February 13. *To build, or not to build: that is the question...*
March 13, 2017 – Police Chief Chris Turner
May 8, 2017 - Public Works Director Larry Turner
July 11, 2017 – City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya
- The Mayor and I will be attending the City Action Days in Olympia February 14th through the 16th.