



City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

2018.12.21, Edition No. 333

WEEKLY UPDATE:

- Grandview: As requested, Bolton & Menk has provided a large format plan for Grandview. The scroll plan for Grandview Avenue is available on the wall at Public Works for viewing.
- 2nd Street: Last night the council asked about costs for making the parkway, i.e. the grass between the sidewalk and curb nicer/better along with the Park Ave. project to convert to 3 lanes. Engineering has looked at this and estimates approximately 5k to 10k to do this work. This includes seeding, fertilizing and mulching. The range is an attempt to cover watering costs if the project is completed and seeded and there is an extended period of hot dry weather. Because it seemed to me that there was general agreement about adding this to the contract, and because the estimated cost is not significant we are proceeding to add this requirement to the contract. Please let the City Council know that we are proceeding on this, thanks. Jim Edmond, City Engineer.
- Fire Department: Please share the following on your next council update: The last few years our attempts to hire paramedics have dwindled down and the last testing cycle we only had two names placed on the civil service list. Both ended up getting job offers. We have no one on the civil service list currently and with Captain Bennitt retiring in January we aren't able to hire anyone for his replacement until April when we have a new list. We will be taking applications in January and testing in March. We are one of the last few fire departments that still require an applicant to be a Paramedic. We are at the point to follow the suit of other cities where we have to change our hiring requirements for medical certification and lower it from Paramedic to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). This will help us recruit and get more applications and more names on a civil service list. The hiring will be contingent on them becoming a Paramedic within 3 years. We will be responsible for sending them to a Paramedic School and in turn we will have them sign a pro-rated contract in case they would leave our organization within five years or fail to become a paramedic that they would have to reimburse us. In the past we have been awarded local grants to send employees to Paramedic school so if and when we would have to do this in the future we would seek this option out first otherwise it would be charged to our training budget similar to what the Police Department does when they hire a police officer and have to send them to the law enforcement academy. Paramedic school costs between \$ 7,900 to \$ 11,900 for our two closest training facilities. Human Resources and our staff have been working on these changes and have reviewed several other comparable cities requirements in order to create our new fire fighter job posting. This will include the change from requiring paramedic certification to requiring EMT certification. Let me know if you have any questions. Jerry Ewers, Fire Chief.
- CAT: The documentation for the CAT grant for the Library has been approved and we should receive the funds in the next week or two for the work done to date.

- Fire Department: Captain Bennitt retirement - please see the attached information for Captain Bennitt's retirement of January 4th.



**CAPTAIN HAROLD BENNITT
IS RETIRING**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
CAKE AND ICE CREAM ON
JANUARY 4, 2019 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.
FIRE DEPARTMENT'S DAY ROOM**