

MANAGER'S REPORT

February 19, 2013

Twin Rink Ice Arena

The developer has provided notice to the City that the building and key mechanical components have been ordered. Until these are on a defined schedule the building schedule is still not certain. I am still sharing that the arena will be open for late fall and we should anticipate one surface coming available a month before the second surface.

Staff continues to research management options and renters. My current strategy is to post the position of director and begin reviewing applications in conjunction with other options. Operationally the Ice Arena Director will coordinate with many staff members but will be a direct report of the City Manager's Office.

Winter Storm "Nemo"

Many times the anticipation of a large storm such as the one projected, fails to live up to the hype. In this case the hype was all too accurate. Staff is reviewing all costs associated with the storm in the event a disaster is declared that would allow the City to be reimbursed for some costs.

One aspect that will continue to be reviewed was the parking ban. In anticipation of the storm the City announced closure for noon on Friday. This was for 2 reasons: (1) to free up parking in the garage for winter relief and (2) to send the message to the public that it is best to stay off the streets. In hindsight and with the delay of the harshest weather until last afternoon and evening we may have been able to wait. However, waiting would have delayed the notice of the parking ban and early this year residents were clear in at least 6 hours notice if not 12 hours. In the Downtown areas this is difficult for businesses, but staff remains dedicated to working on each storm.

One outcome from this storm is the hopes to have a one page FAQ of winter storms and information residents and businesses need to know.

Budget

Internal meetings between the manager, finance office, and staff are occurring to review every departmental budget. The current timeline to have a manager recommended budget by mid to late March is still on schedule.

In regard to the Governor's proposed budget, staff is keenly aware of impacts, but is being patient to address known impacts. Too many variables exist to develop a City budget in response until more definitive answers exist. The Staff is working in collaboration with Lewiston to find efficiencies and gathering ideas for when the State budget is more firm.

Policy Updates

Per City Council request staff and I are working on some issues per Council directive. These include:

1. Ice Arena operational schedule and plan. This will include key dates or milestones between now and the eventual open of the new facility.
2. Economic Development Operational Structure. This will include roles, duties, staff assignments, and agency function in cooperation with the City. I have an aggressive goal to present in workshop this information with financials to consider for February 25th, that only provides one week from the date of this update.
3. Outlet Beach report was received on the 12th of February. I am preparing an agenda packet to review this in workshop on February 25th.

Public Items

Joe Gray presented some items and I have responded to his inquiry. I have shared a lot of information but I am also waiting for some clarification.