

MANAGER'S REPORT

January 22, 2013

Twin Rink Ice Arena

The Ice Arena project should have viewable designs ready soon. The developer is finalizing aspects of the layout. One area that needed adjustment was the entrances onto the ice. I would propose that the City host a "viewing" for the public to come in over a two hour period and see the facility. This would allow staff and the Council to be available to discuss the designs with hockey groups, schools, and residents as they see the design for the first time. Some aspects, especially the exterior appearance / color are still to be determined but a sample rendering can be made available.

The schedule still includes a soft open with primary sheet of ice open in October. The second surface is estimated for December. No timeline has been presented but these are the dates that have been discussed. Breaking ground is also being discussed and expected in March, this keeps the project on schedule.

One change that I am presenting with the staff is an operational budget for the new arena combined with Ingersoll for one year. Since Ingersoll will be used from October to December and then scheduling of removal of equipment and "winterizing," I feel the best approach is to develop a one year combined budget.

Athletic Fields Phase One

Staff presented the three proposals and our recommendation to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The selected firm is Wright Pierce, a firm based in Topsham, Maine. The great news is all three proposals were excellent. The aspects that staff liked about Wright Pierce were their schedule and public input processes.

The project has been assigned to City Planner, Eric Cousens and Parks & Recreation Director, Ravi Sharma.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation

The Assistant City Manager intended to present this to the Council at the January 22nd meeting. However, the staff members needed to work on implementation were determined to need time to review and comment. This will allow a better, more complete list to be presented to the Council. The comprehensive plan calls for various departments to implement portions of the plan. It is the intent of the Assistant City Manager to present this in February.

The staff committee will review progress and present reports to the Council at regular intervals, most likely twice a year. Citizens and Council need to understand that the plan is an approved document of the City. Staff will work to completion on the recommendations, however, that does not mean all things

will occur. Some of the projects may prove to be impossible to implement, financially unviable, or no longer relevant to the needs of the City. Those determinations will be presented in our progress reports.

Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet/Attendance Costs

First I want to thank the Council for sharing the reasons and desire to attend these types of functions. I now also better understand the dialogue that occurred last year before my hire. For the remainder of the year I am going to continue to be conservative with use of funds for attending events. In general the attendance will be limited to the Mayor, Manager, Assistant City Manager, Council appointments, and staff if necessary part of their duties.

As we all understand, the budget is a policy document. It sets the guidelines for the year on use of funds. It is my intention to present the cost and method of events I propose for FY 2014.

Budget

Pleased to report that budgets are coming in from staff and the Finance Director and I are compiling a folder to begin review.

Open Items from Public

Joe Gray: Presented multiple items. Most were points that he shared. Minutes are now reflecting public comments in summary so those points are recorded there. I also intend to call him and set up a time to discuss these in more detail.

61 Mill St.: Two residents shared concerns regarding a police investigation. I have very detailed reports from the Police Chief on the concerns brought up at the meeting.