

April 20, 2009 City Council Meeting
City Manager Comments

Good Job Well Done

Mr. Cole Davis passed his wastewater operator's exam at the Rural Water meeting last month. So, Good job, Cole.

Renewable Energy

Congressman Rehberg's office advised us today that the Department of Energy is offering a new grant through the office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The grants will be administered in a manner similar to CDBG. The grants are aimed at units of local government and Tribes to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. The goal is to foster and encourage technological developments in the energy sector. We had some warning of this through Congressional contacts in late March. As it happens I have a technical interest in the subject area, and you can be sure we'll pursue available grants. Mr. Rehberg is a member of the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, which I hope will help.

Bridge Project

City staff had a meeting this morning with the bridge contractors and MDOT. Evidently we're all on the same page. They are planning to start setting the jersey-kerb barriers down the bridgeway starting next Saturday, and to get after the actual work beginning the following Monday, one week hence. Their flag crews will be out and at it starting possibly as early as Friday. The contractor asked for Riverside Park for staging, but the staff worked out an arrangement to stage materials at the north end of the bridge on the city's pump station property, and there'll be an office trailer and some equipment in Riverside Park. The Park will otherwise remain open for use by the citizens, meanwhile.

ARRA Funding

We had word today from Paul Montgomery with Anderson/Montgomery that the City's application for fund through DEQ has met with success, to the tune of three quarters of a million dollars. State revolving fund may forgive up to 55% of the principle balance, an amount of \$412K, and charge as little as 0.75% annual interest on the balance. This was put in for the reservoir project. That's a good piece of work.

Current Fiscal Stance

I handed out the Actual v. Budgeted Revenue and Expenditure Totals as of March 31, 2009. We'll post them to the website, as well. At 75% of completion of the fiscal year, on a straight time analysis we're below the line in expenditures in all categories – and these numbers reflect the administratively revised budget in which all non-personnel general fund lines were reduced fifteen percent. Water and sewer revenues are good, golf fund a little behind, and of course the

general fund number at 57% revenues reflects the fact that the second-half taxes have not yet been paid. All on track.

Transparency

The Hometown section of the Missoulian this morning had an opinion column regarding that author's dissatisfaction with what he characterized as a lack of transparency in the State budget. I simply wanted to remind the council and the citizens that this City has been posting its budget revenues and expenditures for several months now, updated monthly, straight out of our accounting software without changes of any kind, for the convenience of anybody who cares to know at any time.