

## City Manager Comments

2/18/09 Regular Polson City Council meeting

### Polson Redevelopment Agency

The Polson Redevelopment Agency is in the process of getting back on track and there'll be an agenda item related to that effort on the next agenda.

### Golf Course Restaurant Lease – Improvements

The bargain with Papa Don's regarding the golf course lease is all resolved. We are in the process of looking at the costs of a couple of improvements to the space, one, to straighten out the electrical metering between the restaurant spaces and the pro shop; two, to install a walk-in cooler on the kitchen side. Got a couple of bids on these so far; more to follow. They aren't conditions of the contract, but we said we'd look into them.

### Water/Sewer Hookups

The matter of remaining properties on Bayview Drive that are not connected to water and sewer but ought to have been some years ago is back on the burner. Your staff is making sure that we have our ducks in a row in terms of who is and who isn't before we come back here with some recommendations; just want you to know it is in the works.

### A Good Piece of Police Work

Sergeants Cottle and Nash, and Officer Dentler, PPD, received a departmental letter last week, for a good job well done and stick-to-it-iveness in the matter of a theft at Southshore Lounge, which resulted in four arrests for theft. Had they delayed at all the case probably wouldn't have been satisfactorily resolved.

### Status On New Police Cars

You may have seen our newest police cruiser on the street; it is blue, rather than white. The second cruiser is being outfitted for the radio gear right now, and we'll be seeing the third and final in about a month. Chief Chase informs me that the blue color on this round was a choice made by the officers, themselves. For your information, the cruiser the Chief is now driving has the number "10" instead of the number "3".

### Impact Fee Report on Website

Our impact fee ordinance requires that a report be made each year on the status of the various accounts and an update to the capital improvement projects. Mr. Clavadetscher was kind enough to compile these reports for us; I had previously passed out to you all the CIP listings. However, for your information, the impact fee report itself is also completed, more than a month ago, actually, and is available for inspection at

City Hall by anyone interested. Additionally, and simpler, we've posted it – or at least, will post it – to the City's website as well.

### Highway 93 Bridge Resurfacing – Night Work

Building and Planning has had some discussions with MDOT on the subject of the bridge resurfacing project. Essentially, MDOT has suggested that some of the work proceed at night. My sense of it is that such a course of action should pose no problem, since there is very little nearby residential, although any loud noises will of course carry over the water pretty well. MDOT says the loud noises may be jackhammers, hydro demolition, which makes a loud hiss, and the usual noises of heavy equipment. They're making a definite effort to communicate their schedule by paper and radio and so forth. I assume there'll be no objection on this end.

### Streetscape Funding Update

The Treasurer's office received notice from MDOT that our application for CTEP monies in connection with the Main Street improvements has been received and is in track. Under their projected timeline, we get a final answer by late spring/early summer. There are a couple of extra hoops along the way, of course, but so far as I can tell no show-stoppers. We've specked out a schedule that may allow construction to begin in September, but of course, there are some funding issues in the meanwhile. Doubtless more to follow.

### Permit Issuance

The Building office issued seven building permits in the month of January, 2009, as compared to two in the month of January, 2008.

### Fire Volunteer Disability and Pension

The Fire Chief and I traveled to Helena last week to testify at the Senate Local Government Committee in support of SB 352, which would have, if passed, returned to the local municipalities the authority to impose a mill levy for the sole purpose of adequately funding volunteer firefighter's disability and pension funds without going to the voters first. The bill was tabled in committee, which means it is probably dead. Senator Brueggeman carried the bill for us. The committee was very gracious, and I think I gathered from the nature of the questions asked what is necessary to get a bill that will pass in the next Legislature.

### Two Staff Members Taking Qualifying Tests

Brandon Parker and Cole Davis, W&S, are in Great Falls today taking operator's tests. Brandon is taking the Water Distribution and Treatment exam, and Cole is taking the Wastewater Treatment, first test. Ashley Walker, who is filling in for the Superintendent on vacation at present, tells me the men are ready for their tests and we're wishing them luck.

## Congressional Appropriations Requests

In follow up to a meeting with Senator Tester's staff two weeks ago, the City is compiling appropriations requests for several high-dollar projects in the works, including reservoirs, wastewater treatment, stormwater collection and treatment, and water distribution projects identified in connection with our existing capital improvements plans. We'll be sending those requests along to Mr. Tester's staff next week, and if anybody can get us some additional letters of support please put them in contact with me. We will send the same data to our State district legislators, including Senator Brueggeman and Representative Taylor.

## Projects Update

The reservoir project funded in part by TSEP grant dollars is at present getting ready to kick off later in the spring. The metal building covering the reservoirs is salvageable, and the Golf Department has expressed some interest in it for a maintenance facility. The two departments are working out a bargain of some kind and will in due course let me know, I think.

The sewer line from Bayshore Drive across the lower part of the Old Nine to the new lift station on the park roadway is ready to go; the contractor, Jensen, is waiting for the right frost conditions in order to minimize the impacts to the course. We were out there looking it over today, and the Course people are ready to support the project details – including no few irrigation lines that will suffer in the process.

The Main Street water main upgrade is basically ready to go; since we are trying to package it up and coordinate construction with the Streetscape SID project, which is itself early in the timeline, we'll be waiting for a while, yet.