

**STREETS/PARKS:**

The Fletcher road project is still not fully complete. Although we have been able to drive on it for almost a month, there are a few items on their final punch list. Most importantly the drainage ditch along Highway 112.

Charles Ward and others are working on the Bushy Creek drainage project in Barrington Heights subdivision. They have begun widening the ditch between Arlington Way and Barrington Road. This widening will allow for storage of stormwater during a major rain event and prevent the creek from overflowing the banks. As we have discussed before, the plan is to continue cleaning and widening to the south between Arlington Way and Liberty Avenue. There are a few areas that we will be able to create more ponds to help absorb or buffer the surge of storm events. We are still working with the Corps of Engineers to acquire a permit that will allow us to add to the drainage box culverts under Barrington and Arlington. This will allow the water to move out of the subdivision more rapidly. Between increasing the drainage culverts and creating the detention/storage ponds, I have a high level of confidence this will solve the flooding problem in this area.

In a recent online auction Washington County Road Department listed several pieces of surplus equipment to sell. One of the items was a pothole patching truck that can be operated by one person from the cab. These trucks sell new for around \$125,000. We were able to purchase this one for \$5600. Merry Christmas to the Street Department.

**WATER/SEWER:**

As we discussed last meeting, we have placed an order for pipe and materials for the upcoming water and sewer project slated for next year. After speaking with the supplier last week, it sounds like we will not see any deliveries before sometime in March. We are continuing to design the projects and acquire easements where needed. Once we start receiving materials we will begin bidding the projects.

Chris Buntin with Garver Engineers mentioned when he last spoke to the Council, that NACA was in the process of renewing their Discharge Permit. This process took over a year to complete, but ADEQ finally issued their permit on December 1. NACA's current permit has a phosphorus limit of 0.1, which is the lowest in Northwest Arkansas. Their new permit was issued with a phosphorus limit of 0.35. Garver and their team lobbied EPA and ADEQ to try to get a limit of 0.5, which would be in line with the rest of the plants in this area. Although they were not able to get the 0.5, the increase to 0.35 will help the plant to meet its limits for the foreseeable future. In addition, this limit will allow the plant to utilize cloth media filtration, which will save approximately \$3 million in capital cost in the plant upgrade. However, Oklahoma agencies will have a 30-day period in which they could request legal ruling in Arkansas to determine if the permit will be reversed or modified.