

STREETS/PARKS:

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the last Council meeting when the paving of North Ardemagni was approved. Your support will make many residents happy as this section of road has needed this improvement for many years. The paving contractor indicated that he will be able to move in, and possibly complete the project the first week of October, weather permitting.

City staff has met and discussed plans to move forward with developing a list of street priorities and potential sources of funding. In the next few months, we should have a Street Master Plan draft available for your review. Mark Latham has also been in touch with Duncan and Associates, the company working on impact fees, regarding fees for street improvements.

WATER/SEWER:

We are finally at the bidding stage for the Highway 412 water line project. The bid advertisement has been submitted to the newspaper and will run statewide in the Sunday edition September 18th and 25th. A pre-bid conference will be held October 18th at 10:00 am for contractors to meet with the Engineer and the City to inquire about any specific issues and receive clarification of plans and specs. The formal bid opening will be held Friday, October 28th at 2:00 pm.

My main concern regarding the water project is the amount of bond funds remaining after the purchase of materials. There is no question, we saved a considerable amount of cost by pre-purchasing materials. Hopefully, this will greatly impact the bids for the construction of the line. However, the original amount of the bond funds dedicated to water was \$4,088,080. The amount spent on materials to this point is \$1,796,825. Therefore, only \$2,291,255 remains for construction.

Last meeting, I informed you that I attended a meeting with legislators in Little Rock to request ARPA funds be released to the Water and Wastewater utilities in the state. On September 13th, a subcommittee approved the release of \$270 Million in grant funding to be administered by ANRC. Final approval of the release of funding must pass Legislative Council on Friday, September 16th. Once this is approved, there will be a re-application process and a short window to submit projects for funding. The Natural Resources Division has already scheduled meetings across the state, beginning September 21st in Springdale, to assist utilities with applications. In the original application process, we submitted seven water and sewer projects to be considered for funding. In this re-application, in order to increase our chances with funding, we will only be submitting one project. We will request funding for a one-million-gallon elevated water storage tank to be constructed at the intersection of Industrial Drive and East Fletcher Avenue. Engineers estimate on this project is approximately \$4 million.