

**STREETS/PARKS:**

Good News, Ardemagni Road paving is completed and ahead of schedule. If you have not had a chance to drive through, please do so. It's amazing how a small project such as this improves the city, and relieves the street crew from ongoing maintenance issues.

The Street Planning Committee met last week with Regional Planning, Robin Lundstrum and Clint Penzo to discuss priorities and funding opportunities. Tim Conklin with Regional Planning explained how we need to go about requesting federal funds for street improvements. More importantly, he made us aware of the length of time required to construct improvements using federal dollars. The first item that needs to be addressed is the Master Street Plan. The current plan, last updated in 2018, needs to be updated again as some of the needs and priorities have changed. Mark Latham and I have been working on a priority list and potential timeline for construction. Committee discussion included planning future improvements out 10-15 years due to the cost and time required to acquire federal funding.

Some of the projects can be accomplished without the use of federal funds. These smaller projects can be funded with local dollars, including impact fees, once they are in place. However, with all of this being said, we still need to dedicate more funding to the street department. In the near future, the council will have to make a decision where the money will come from. There are very few options available to generate the amount of funds needed to construct any new streets. The first option is to pass a new sales tax that would be dedicated to streets. Secondly, the current one-cent sales tax that is divided 60% to general fund, 30% to water and sewer and 10% to streets, could be re-allocated to add a larger percentage to streets. The final option, which has already been passed this year, is to increase millage to 5%, the maximum allowed without going to the voters. There is a possibility it may take all three to generate the amount of revenue needed to fund the wants and needs of the City.

**WATER/SEWER:**

First of all, I am happy to announce the hiring of a new employee in the Public Works Department. For the last year I have been trying to convince Charles Ward to come work for the City. He finally agreed to take the job. Yesterday, Charles started as the Public Works Supervisor. His many years of experience will make him a great asset to the City.

Just a reminder, the bid opening for the installation of the 18" waterline along 412 will be October 28<sup>th</sup>. I will have the results of the bids for your approval at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.