

June 2016

PLUMMER NEWS

C I T Y O F P L U M M E R

D A T E S O F
I N T E R E S T :

- June 9 Regular City Council Meeting 6 p.m.
- June 23 Regular City Council Meeting has been Canceled

Plummer City News is published by the City of Plummer and provided to customers free of charge. An electronic version is available upon request. Any comments about this publication can be addressed to Sara Gauthier City Clerk at P.O. Box B, Plummer, Idaho 83851 or (208) 686-1641 or by e-mail at Sara@cityofplummer.org

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, the City of Plummer is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD).

Annual City Wide Yard Sale

It's that time of year again for the City Wide Yard Sale. The Yard Sale will be on June 11th from 9a.m.-5p.m. There is a \$10.00 fee for the City Wide Yard Sale to have your sale on the map. For more information or to get on the City Wide Yard Sale map please call Robert at 208-661-4444

City Computers

As many of you know we had some computers issues, we are back up and running completely now. Please disregard any strange looking adjustments on your bill. Everything is back to normal going forward. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this matter.

Budget Pay Enrollment

Budget pay enrollment is now closed and we will be calculating the amounts and sending everyone that is currently on budget pay and those who signed up during open enrollment the amount that has been calculated for you.

"On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" is the theme for this year's Summer Reading Program June 16th - July 28th at Plummer Public Library. Not just for kids, families are encouraged to participate. There will be a drawing for some cool prizes at the end. Sign up forms are available at the library. But hurry, you need to be signed up by **June 11th.**

Also on June 11th, the Library Friends will be having a **Book, Bake & Parking Lot Yard Sale** from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Monday-Wednesday: 10a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday: 2p.m.-6p.m.

Friday & Sunday: Closed

Saturday: 10a.m.-2p.m.

Message from The Mayor

This month has been busy! I've been working to put together all the elements that can help us repair the system and looking at the scenarios available to us. We have three choices essentially. Crew up and do it ourselves like in the "old days," contract the whole system out much like what we were doing with KEC, or a "hybridization" of the two, where we partially crew up, get the appropriate equipment and create a "staging area," and use contractors for the really big jobs. How this last choice would work is we would have a two-man crew here in town under our employ. If the lights go out, they immediately respond, and if it's a small problem they can fix it. If it's a bigger thing, then they make the call to whomever we contract with to come and fix the problem with our guys. Kind of a "no job too small, some jobs too BIG" sort of thing. It would save response time and money.

I went and met with the Troy Montana folks. They are a community similar in size to us, and they have their own utility like we do. The thing with them is that their system is smaller, they bring in about half the revenue we do, yet they manage to have a three-lineman crew full time and their system is in remarkably nice shape. The city crew is cross-trained to assist the linemen as "grounds men" if they need help, and the linemen do city crew stuff when the electrical utility doesn't need work, which is rarely. Clint Taylor, the system manager and lead lineman told me that if there's nothing to do, they go find a tree and trim it back from the lines. And they are in terrain very similar to ours although somewhat more rugged since they are in the Kootenai-Cabinet mountains at the end of the Bitterroots. But this begs the question, if they can do it, why can't we? They freely shared all their financials and we are analyzing them as we speak. I'll no doubt be making another trip up there soon to get more insight into their system!

I've met with two electrical contractors and laid out the exact scenario I talked about above and they are working out the numbers to see if they can work with us in the manner I described. I met with USDA Rural Utilities Services, and we qualify for their assistance in funding all the work we need at low interest rates. I'm still working on seeing how we can do this with as little impact on you, the customer, as I can possibly squeeze out. Can we go year to year? Do we need to go 5, 10 or 30 years in repaying a loan or loans? What can be the biggest bang for our buck?

I've met with Walter Steed out of Moscow, of W.M. Steed and Associates about getting a half million-dollar grant from the Department of Commerce to help.

I've met with Commonwealth and Associates, the electrical engineers who designed the pole project under KEC to see what work they had already completed in the way of the required studies we need to move forward. They have a lot of the stuff done and we have already paid for it since it was done as part of the pole project, so that should save us a butt-load of money!

I'm working with our city attorney and bond council putting together the required documentation for that so it's ready by September.

All the research and numbers, all our "ducks in a row," should be ready to show all of you hopefully by mid July, and mid August at the latest. Then we pick the scenario we use to fix the system and go for it! It will be clear to everyone which one will be the choice to pick. The numbers won't lie, and it will be up to **you** to decide which way we go!

Other things that have been going on...our computer problem has been straightened out and the office staff is finally getting reloading all the data into the computers finished up. We have been updating city policies to reflect current times. We are getting set to break ground on some sewer system inflow and infiltration work across town. The contractors and Army Corps are finalizing the paperwork on that project. Hopefully it will allow us to lift the sewer moratorium or at least bring us closer to that! Got my fingers crossed! We might be getting some help from Indian Health Services too, but that is still being worked on. That would really bring us closer to lifting that moratorium! Then we just have to do something about the water situation.

I'm looking at some programs and methods by which we might be able to implement ways to bring in funding for street repairs but it is still early in that research. I'll keep you posted. The bridge should be finishing up shortly too, and that's going to be a relief for everyone!

I'll have more to tell you in next month's edition, so stay tuned! Remember, if you have any ideas or insights you want to share, leave it at City Hall or you can email me at mayor.cityofplummer@gmail.com.