

PLUMMER NEWS

February 2017

CITY OF PLUMMER

DATES OF
INTEREST:

- February 9
Regular City
Council Meeting
6p.m.
- February 20 City
Hall Closed for
President's Day
- February 23
Regular City
Council Meeting
6p.m.

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

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Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance only covers your electrical portion of your bill. The renter/home owner are still responsible for the water, sewer, sewer bond and garbage portion of their bill to avoid disconnection for nonpayment.

Happy
Valentine's
Day



Library News

The library has a 4-H promotion in its display case through February. Stop by to see some examples of great fun and educational projects.

If you are starting to think about spring cleaning, please take a look around for overdue library books or movies and please return them so that others can enjoy them.

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

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

Friday & Sunday: Closed

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

A Message from The Mayor

We are heading into February already! Here's an update on what's happening.

Through December and into January Commonwealth did a major inventory of the materials the city has from when it took care of the system itself. There was still stuff in the shop along with our inventory of transformers and wire spools. Now they are going over that inventory to double check what is outdated or obsolete by today's standards so we can get rid of it and restock with modern equipment and parts. All this stuff will be ordered, stocked, and managed by the city from now on so we know what we have and when we need to reorder as we go. This for the first phase of the construction project as well as for when we need stuff during emergency situations for quick repairs since we'll have crews here working if anything happens and they can just move from rebuild to repair quickly. We'll be setting up discussions with suppliers so we have help managing the materials as we go. Smaller utilities and municipally run utilities utilize material suppliers in this way to assure proper stock management.

Commonwealth is continuing with their work on the Construction Work Plan focusing on "Phase One" of the four-year project, which will be replacing the priority reject poles and some hardware. We'll amend the CWP to fit each phase as we progress through the project. By that I mean that we will detail and define each phase, or year, of the project as needed versus the broad scope and generalization of the bond initiative process. Where the rubber meets the road kind of thing. Phase one should be done by the end of February so we have time to review it and make any changes we see that might be needed by the deadline for the application that I have set of April 1st.

Keep in mind that the research is ongoing and is required for some portions the USDA/RUS application. And, as with all research, sometime it takes a little longer than expected, but for right now we are on track. We also should have a solid schedule by the time you read this. We'll make it available at City Hall if anyone wants to look at it.

FCS Group, who are doing our long-range financial forecast has that done and is transferring it over to USDA/RUS documentation.

Steve Boorman of Cheney Light Department is advising us (at no charge) on how to develop management and construction standards based on the American Public Power Associations Standard Specifications and to make sure that they comply with RUS requirements. I want to give hats off to Steve! He's been very helpful through this process!

On the bad news side, we had applied for an Idaho Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) to help subsidize phase one. I got a call from Idaho Department of Commerce this morning telling me we were declined. They told me it was declined because while the need was there, the system was in such poor shape and had been so poorly managed by the city over the years that they didn't want to go there. That's exactly how they said it. They also mentioned our water and sewer, and the lack thereof to adequately manage and improve them. What does this mean? It means that there is "kick-back" from state and federal departments and agencies about the resistance for the passage of the electric bond, *and* that water bond election the year before and the voting down of a \$4 million dollar grant to improve our water source and distribution system; and the mismanagement of the sewer plant project along with our consistent EPA violations of that plant. Plummer is in the sights of the legislature in Boise and federal programs like EPA and USDA. When we don't take responsibility for our own infrastructure (all of us, including you as residents) and let it deteriorate to deplorable conditions, then vote down efforts toward improvement we pay the price for help in the future! Now we have to *show* them that we are making efforts to improve conditions and actually *make* improvements or we won't get help from outside sources even though there is money available!

Speaking of elections, as many of you have probably heard by now, the school needs to continue its levy and it goes to a vote in March. It doesn't mean you are going to have anything added to your taxes! It means that they are asking to have it stay the same and continued for another two years. What is at stake? Athletics for one. Just like the first time. If the levy isn't approved, your kids will lose their sports programs. Elective courses like art and music, to name a couple, will be on the chopping block too. Kindergarten. This is important and I support the levy! I hope you will too! Keep sports, elective courses, and academic success programs in our school! Our youth are our future! Lets give them as much as we can to help them succeed!

Oh yeah! I'll be meeting with Commerce again around the middle of the month. This is about our community center and seeing if we can revamp it to accommodate our senior citizens and to make it more accessible to disabled and handicapped people. We've got a structural engineer coming to assess the feasibility of trying to repair and upgrade the building. That should happen next week. We need to do something with that building because it is becoming difficult for elderly and handicapped to even use it as a voting place. And Commerce, although they turned down the ICDBG, wants to help us with that project if it can be done. I'll let you know how that went in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

Finally, as soon as we can safely dig we are going to start a house-by-house street-by-street water line replacement project. We raised our rates a little bit a while back, and along with the completion of the mill water-metering project now we can start putting some of that additional revenue we've been gathering in to the water system infrastructure. It'll take a while, but Leonard and crew will start as soon as the weather permits. Baby steps!

Think Spring!