

March 2017 PLUMMER NEWS

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

**DATES OF
INTEREST:**

- March 9 Regular City Council Meeting 6p.m.
- March 12 Daylight Savings Spring Forward
- March 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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Mayor & City Council

Mayor: William Weems (Term Expires 12/31/2019)
Council President: Tim Clark (Term Expires 12/31/2019)
Council: Julie Miller (Term Expires 12/31/2019)
Council: Tim Stockdale (Term Expires 12/31/2017)
Council: Brad Hampton (Term Expires 12/31/2017)

Council Meetings: 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 6p.m. at City Hall 880 C Street Plummer, Idaho

Budget Billing Program

There have been some recent changes to the Budget Billing Program. Enrollment period will be year around and the due date is changing to the 10th of the month. If not paid by the 20th of that same month the account will be in default and will be subject to disconnection of services and the customer will be removed from the Budget Billing Program. If you are having problems with high monthly electric bills in the winter, this will help alleviate the high bills and even them out over the year. If you are interested in being on budget pay please call City Hall at 686-1641 to be placed on the enrollment list.

City Crew Position

The City of Plummer is seeking a City Crew Member. Position will be full time with some after-hours call time required. Starting wage is \$14.00 per hour. Excellent benefits. Position involves manual labor, lifting of heavy items and operation of heavy and light equipment. Employee must be able to follow oral and written instruction, keep accurate records, and work with the public courteously and effectively. Applicants must have a High School Diploma, GED or combination of education and experience and provide the Class A commercial driver's license as well as a DOT Physical Examination Certificate within 90 days from hire date. Applicant must pass a pre-employment drug screen as a requirement of this position. Experience with water system, sewer system and vehicle mechanics is a plus. Applications can be picked up at Plummer City Hall, 880 C Street (Highway 5), Plummer or call 208-686-1641. Open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Library News

After a long winter break, the Friends of the Library will resume meeting March 14th at 1:00 p.m. in the library's conference room. Anyone interested in promoting literacy in the community is welcome to attend. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Please call the library at 686-1812 for more information.

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

USDA/RUS came down and set Sara and I up in RD Apply, the online application program. Sara has been uploading documents so we are on track and within budget to have our application input by April first! We have been assured by Commonwealth Engineering that the forms 740 and the Construction Work Plan draft, the two most vital parts of the application, are on track to be delivered to us by March 3rd. We will review these documents, make any changes that might be required, and submit them as well. Things on that side are looking good!

But we have had a set back. Constant negativity by part of the council have driven Mountain Water Works to submit their resignation letter at our last meeting. I'm refusing to accept their resignation. We are having a special meeting on the 28th at 4 pm to discuss it. But I'm not sure I can repair the damage. If I can negotiate with them to stay, then the council will have to let them do their jobs! The council's authority only lays in the renewal of their contract and project(s) budget(s) approvals. If they have a beef, bring it to Sara, Andy, or me for answers. The rest is just reporting to the council what has been done, what is being done, and what is going to be done!

I don't know what it is about this town and its leadership. Why is there such a drive to try and obstruct any kind of forward momentum? We are located in a virtual sportsman's paradise! A State Park and a beautiful lake are right next-door! Hunting and fishing are at our very doorstep! We are located on the main arterial of the state, Highway 95! 33 miles from a freeway and 45 miles from an international airport! This town should be thriving, yet here we sit in a pool of stagnation with moratoriums preventing any kind of economic and community development!

It always seems to come down to invoices, whether they are itemized enough. Maybe they could be. But if you look at the history of the relationship between the city and Mountain Water Works, MWW has brought in over \$1.5 million in grant funding for improvements. A percentage of that was slated for engineering. The sewer plant, however, isn't part of the deal, although \$200 grand was snagged to help offset the screens replacements in the plant. All the other work done down there the city has to eat! There are no grants for poor project management and that's what happened there. Over the life of our relationship we have paid MWW about \$432,000 over almost 4 years. Approximately \$302,000 of that was grant source funding. So, about \$130,000 actually came out of city coffers, *over almost 4 years!* My first year as a councilman we farmed out almost \$500,000 to Kootenai Electric for outages alone! Which is initially what got me started on my "crew up" and manage our own system again kick.

Our roads are crap. Our water supply is limited. Our sewer system is woefully inadequate. Acres of land sit idle in the old "pole yard" that could be developed into a home for light industry businesses and jobs. We should be thriving! Other communities up and down Highway 95 and Highway 55 on down to Boise are starting to look pretty good and capturing dollars from the flow of traffic. Why can't we? Because city leaders, and I'm also talking about community leaders in town who aren't elected, work to keep us in a state of perpetual stagnation! Everybody complains but nobody comes out of his or her comfort zone and steps up and organizes to help us make this place better. We have to break this "culture" of non-participation and complacency!

I guess it comes down to who owns this town! The answer is obvious. *ALL of you* own this town! Step up and start taking ownership of it. If that happens then this community can't do anything *but* improve!

There have been complaints galore about the roads falling apart. This has been a particularly tough winter. People forget we live in Northern Idaho. We've had it easy for the last 4 or 5 years. We aren't able to find asphalt to fix the holes because all the asphalt plants are closed this time of year. They'll be firing back up in the coming weeks but it doesn't do us any good at the moment. As soon as we can we'll start fixing the holes, but that's all I can promise you right now. We need to find a way to fix all our streets. Sidewalks and gutters would be nice!

So I'll get off my soapbox for now! But I'll close with this thought. The betterment of our community isn't a spectator sport. It takes more than "arm chair quarterbacking." Start asking yourself "what can I do to make our community better?" It doesn't take much effort. Just an idea or suggestion. Getting with and talking with your neighbor. Picking up a piece of trash. Coming to city council meetings. Anything! Just do it!

William Weems, Mayor