

April 2017

PLUMMER NEWS

**DATES OF
INTEREST:**

- April 13 Regular City Council Meeting 6 p.m.
- April 27 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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Highway 5 Closure

Due to Highway 5 being closed we were unable to read electric meters at the lake, so all lake accounts will be charged the electric base rate only.

Software Issue

After mailing billing out at the end of February, we noticed that some accounts did not receive sewer, sewer bond and garbage charges. If you see a balance forward on your billing statement this is the reason for that. No penalty charges were applied to those accounts.

Budget Billing Program

Don't forget that the Budget Billing Program is open year round now. Budget Pay amounts are due by the 10th of each month and if not paid by the 20th of that month you are still subject to disconnect of services and customers 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 208-686-1641 to be placed on the enrollment list.

Library News

The library staff needs to hear from parents with preschooler's who would be interested in a weekly story time at the library.

Please contact the library at 686-1812 and they will give you the details.

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

We are on track in our USDA Electric Utility Loan Application. As I write this, almost everything is uploaded to R D Apply. There are a couple items that need to be done yet that we overlooked in the pile, but we are calling a quick special meeting Tuesday evening the 4th for the council to approve two resolutions that need to accompany the application.

Then we wait for USDA's environmental officer to approve that aspect on their end and we are good to go! Then the waiting game begins as the loan goes through the final approval process and first phase of funding becomes available; hopefully, by this fall. I had set a deadline of April 1st for the application submittal, and since that date is a Saturday the following few days works just as well! Rod Peach, the USDA Field Rep is working right along side us and he says everything looks good! By the 4th it will be done!

We have, however, suffered a set back. I tried to convince Mountain Water Works to stay on but that effort was futile. They will stay on and help us with our sewer plant problem and the potential catch basin project with the tribe, but that's it.

Now we will have to search for engineering firms to assist us with projects, and may have to try and recruit enough to go on a revolving pool based on need and availability. This isn't going to be cheap either. We got so much bang for our buck out of MWW that it isn't funny! We lost so much institutional knowledge with the news they will no longer work with us that it isn't funny too! But not funny haha.

There was an effort to shut down this article in the newsletter at the first council meeting in March. Allegedly for "complaints" about it. It was suggested that what I write here is "slanderous" and "libelous." If any of you feel this way, I would encourage you to bring your complaints about it to me, not through a third party. I do often receive notes in my email or mailbox at city hall signed by customers who express their support of this article, as well as for what we are trying to accomplish. I find it curious that "complaints" are only delivered through a councilman and there are no names to support the "complaints."

I was also told that Fernwood officials thought that Mountain Water Works was doing them wrong and they wanted to get rid of them. Again, through mysterious third party sources. I investigated this and found that to be totally false.

I have been seeing a pattern of "targeting" accusations over the last year as well. Accusations that we are "targeting tribal members." We are "targeting poor people." We are "targeting water users." I have had enough of it! Frankly, the three women in the office or our staff in the field doesn't have time to sit around and scheme about "who to target." I certainly don't have time! And how in the hell would we pull something like that off? Does it look like the city or any of us are getting rich off the "fat that is being skimmed off" of the residents backs in some nefarious plot to target people? For crying out loud!

As for the mysterious no name complaints, I want to assure everyone that city hall and myself are open to receiving any dialogue, critique, or praise that any of you want to throw at us. It's part of the job. It isn't called "public office" for nothing. If you have ideas or suggestions please bring them to us! We need all the help we can get from you!

Sometimes the truth is uncomfortable. But I, for one, will call it like I see it and I will never sugar coat anything to try and keep any of you in the dark! I make people mad as hell because I don't have time for BS, but that's who I am! You deserve to know what's going on!

Back to business...I declared a state of emergency so that we might be able to get some funding for our streets deterioration. I'm sure all of you can see them falling apart. I know you can feel it as you drive over them! As soon as this damned rain slows down we'll start trying to pick up the pieces. It's the best we can do at the moment.

On a closing note I would like to ask community member support for an upcoming community review process in a collaborative effort between our community and the Idaho Rural Partnership. We will need community leaders and members to help us form "home teams" as we look at critical issues facing our community. IRP will provide teams to work in conjunction with the home teams. I'll be touching base with IRP Director Jon Barrett around the time you read this, but keep it in mind. I'll keep you posted!

See you next month!

Mayor Bill Weems