

DATES OF INTEREST:

- June 8 Regular City Council Meeting 6p.m.

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Rummage & Yard Sale

There will be a rummage & yard sale at Plummer Senior Center on
 Friday June 9th from 2:00p.m.-5:00p.m
 Saturday June 10th from 10:00 a.m.-3:30p.m.

There will be a hot dog lunch on Saturday June 10th for \$3.00

All donations are accepted



Join Us!

**COME SHARE YOUR VISION FOR A
 NEW PLAYGROUND
 AT THE PLUMMER COMMUNITY CENTER!**

JUNE 14, 2017
 5:30-7:00 PM
 @ PLUMMER COMMUNITY CENTER

*Refreshments will be provided.
 Kids are invited to come and draw their ideas for the park.*

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

High Five! Children's Health Collaborative | POWERED BY Blue Cross of Idaho | Foundation for Health, Inc.

CITY OF PLUMMER | HIGH FIVE AMBASSADOR CITY

Sign up today for the Plummer & Worley all city YARD SALE

Deadline to get on the map JUNE 4 5 P.M.

City Wide Sale June 10 9-5

\$10 Fee For Maps and Newspapers Advertising.

661-4444
686-1325

Library News

Preschool Story time with Meghan is every Wednesday from 10:30 - 11:15.

"Build a Better World" Summer Reading Program registration is May 30th - June 15th. The program is for kids in 1st - 8th grade. It begins June 22nd and ends with a family picnic on Aug. 10th.

Library Friends Used Book Sale will be Sat. June 17th from 9 am - 2 pm.

For information on any of these events, please contact the library at 208-686-1812.

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

I hope everyone had a good Memorial Day Weekend! This has been the best one weather wise in about 20 years according to the weather service. Nice! We take this time every year to remember those who have gone before us, those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to assure our freedoms, as well as to remember friends and loved ones who have crossed over. It is the “unofficial” start of summer too! And it couldn’t come too soon in my view!

We have all felt the weight of the past winter, and it feels good to have sun on our faces!

But we still have issues to deal with. The winter took its toll on our city streets. We have applied for some assistance and while it won’t be much, every little bit helps! We’ll try to tackle work on some of the heavier traffic areas as funding becomes available. We have our outdated transportation plan being revised to a more “realistic” achievable version, and this will help us in managing realistic goals for improving our streets. It also helps us build points towards funding opportunities in the near and long term. But we are going to start on one section and work our way out to the rest of the town. It may take some time, but we will be working on it bit by bit.

We are taking on a “one stop shop” electrical engineering firm and starting to get ready for the first phase of the electric project. Toth & Associates is the firm. They have worked extensively with USDA Electric Programs and know all the ins and outs of project design and management with them. Once we get the go ahead from USDA, things should start moving rather quickly.

The young ladies in the office are getting their legs under them! They are adhering to, and when necessary getting the proper training to follow proper practices in local government operations and management! As an example of their work, our auditors were finally here a couple weeks ago. Usually, over the past several years, the auditors would have to stay longer and then send a ton of questions once they got back to Lewiston about our budget and line items, expenditures, and other documentation. This year they left early and so far, no questions about our financials! We are also in the black for the first time in a long time in our electric, sewer, water, garbage, and general fund categories! I am proud of their hard work and dedication to accuracy! Good job office staff! Keep it up!

For about a year now I’ve been working with Ted Blaszak of the Tekoa City Council, and his group, The Tekoa Trail and Trestle Association, in efforts to join the Trail of the Coeur d’Alene’s with the John Wayne Trail in Washington State. They have done the majority of the work dealing with the farmers who now own the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad bed between here and Tekoa. They have gotten the farmers on board and now it looks like it will happen. There only remains a stretch through two parcels that look like BIA to Underpass Road, and from there it is City of Plummer right of way or Public Reserve. Mr. Blaszak has an investor in New York who may just foot the bill for the remainder of the connection through Plummer and the trail will join the Trail of the Coeur d’Alene’s at 8th Street and Seltice here in town. If it occurs, it will be the longest joined rails to trails connected trail in North America, second only to The Great Divide Trail! The investor would cover the equipment, like billboards and bike stands, and painting of bike lanes on our streets. This would bring bicyclists from all over the country, and maybe even the world and add tourism dollars to our frail economy! We hope to have it open for bike traffic by August if everything works out right! Mr. Blaszak and I will be meeting with the tribe about the connection in the coming weeks.

As many of you know, we have been in negotiations with the tribe to install an equalization basin next to our sewer plant to mitigate our effluent violations. It would be a tribal facility on tribal property, and we would lease it. This so we can catch the overflow and process it at the capacity that the sewer plant can handle. There was some reluctance by city council to do this citing the lease expense and location.

“Ownership.” Mountain Water Works, Andy, our city attorney, and the tribe looked at the best way to handle as much effluent as we possibly could over the year of talks. The city could only apply for so much from the Army Corps of Engineers as no other funding was available, but the tribe could add an additional \$600,000 in a partner aspect of a combined project. We looked at putting it on city property but the expense of doing so would not accommodate a large enough reservoir for the sewage, so the tribe proposed the EQ basin on their property. So we began talks and we spent our project share on the underground and manhole project last fall. But there was a snag when the city council wouldn’t agree to the lease of \$6,000 per year or the location and ownership.

The council, except one, finally voted to approve the lease on the contingency we asked for a lower price on the lease and a greater time before renewal. The agreement as written was for \$6,000 yearly renewed every 5 years. Andy and I asked the tribal council, they said the agreement was fair and reasonable, and that they would review it with us in 6 months to a year to see if we could reduce it. So we made the effort and asked, they said no, and I signed it and delivered it.

It is not an ideal situation, but it gives us time to plan to seek funding and find a better place or solution for the sewer plant. If the EQ basin removes or even reduces our violations and helps remove the moratorium then we will have added revenue. The risk is that it won’t be big enough to lift the moratorium. We will see when it is completed, and how much \$600,000 can build.

Another issue with the city council was that we trade approximately 100 connections in the form of capitalization fees to the tribe for their project and the lease. If it lifts the moratorium, then minus the lease and cap fees, those 100 connections would bring in \$93,000 per year in needed revenue for improvements.

So it was a trade off. To do nothing, with no funding available, and I even looked at private charitable foundations and trusts for potential funding, could be catastrophic to the community. Take the tribe’s offer and have an EQ basin to use, the worst-case scenario in doing so we might have to add 87 cents to the sewer bill for a while. Maybe not, we’ll have to see once it’s online. Which would you choose?

We are still looking to see if we can refinance the sewer bond and that process is being investigated as we speak. So we have had some progress in the right direction, and some compromises we’ve had to make. This isn’t going to be an easy row to hoe, but you all need to be aware of what’s happening.

Finally, I was invited and attended the American Legion flag retirement ceremony Memorial Day evening. It gives one perspective on the meaning of the flag and its history, along with those who gave their all defending it and us, so that we may enjoy and benefit from our freedoms. A young man spoke about the meaning of the flag and the Constitution. He was a part of the oratory contest the Legion had a while back. He took second at the state contest. It was a good talk on the articles of the Constitution that protect our freedoms and was a wonderful cap to the evening! I want to thank all those, past and present, serving in our military branches for the roles they all play in protecting our rights and freedoms! Thank You!

Hopefully next month I’ll have good news about the refinance. Cross you fingers. Until then.

William Weems, Mayor