

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: March 16, 2023
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of March 20, 2023

Planning Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission had several items on its last agenda which included:

- Approval of a site plan for Aldi, Inc. to construct a new 20,664 square foot single-story building for use as a limited assortment grocery store with a paved parking area with municipal sewer and water service on a 4.42-acre vacant parcel of property recently sold to them by Jim Paetschow on the East side of Clare Avenue between Culvers and O'Reilly. The parcel is currently located in Grant Township, but ALDI intends to file a District II transfer request in the coming months, as provided for under the Urban Cooperation Agreement between Grant Township and the City of Clare so that they can receive city utility services.
- Approval of a site plan/façade improvement application to American Marble and Granite who are proposing to remodel the outside of their existing building at 203 North McEwan including new windows, siding, and stonework.
- Continued discussion of Ordinance Amendment to Section 52-308 – Vehicle Storage and Parking. The Planning Commission finalized their discussion on the draft ordinance language and will be reviewing it at their next meeting in final draft form and will hopefully be recommending it for the City Commission to act on at an upcoming meeting.

Assessing RFP. As I mentioned at the last meeting, the city received notice that our Assessor (Ed with V&V Assessing) is terminating his contract with the City of Clare due to health issues. An RFP was prepared and sent out for Assessing Service for the City at the end of February and a bid opening was held on March 15th. We did not receive any bids that met the criteria requested (Level III Assessor). We have posted and resent the RFP again changing the language to Level II required and Level III preferred so that we will hopefully be able to receive more responses. The bid opening is scheduled for the end of March so that we can bring you a recommendation for the Assessing contract at your first meeting in April.

Lake Shamrock Dredging Project. Mechanical dredging is still paused due to frost laws and weight restrictions. We still have the rest of March, short as it will be, to potentially haul material if the frost laws are lifted. Unfortunately, our dredging operator did give his notice and has taken another position in Portland, Oregon. We have the position posted internally per the Union Contract and as soon as that 2 weeks is done (assuming we don't have an internal candidate) we will be posting the position again to the public for hiring. Timing wise we do have the 2 months that we are paused per our permit for fish spawning in April and May, so I would hope that if we are lucky we can have someone in place before our startup again in June. Hydraulic dredging contracts have been signed and the contractor is beginning conversations and work regarding the design and permitting process with EGLE.

Verizon Cell Tower. Update – Work is continuing and it appears the fiber has now been installed based on recent activity. We are still waiting on the fiber being activated and the switching over of the tower from 4G to 5G.

Ribbon Cuttings/New Businesses. Several new businesses have or will be having ribbon cuttings. The new multi store front Cardinal and Clover held their ribbon cutting on March 16th, Play-n-Snack Arcade held a ribbon cutting on March 17th, Ideal Theater is having a ribbon cutting on April 3rd, and coming soon are hopefully ribbon cuttings for JX Trucking (Peterbilt) and McEwan Street Fudge and Ice Cream.

Irish Festival. At the time of my writing this report Irish Festival will just be beginning and by the time we hold our meeting it will be over for another year. Hopefully, everyone can/did attend all of the exciting events over the course of the 4 days. Clare certainly is the “City of Festivals” and our businesses, Chamber, City Staff, and community certainly know how to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.

Attachments: None