



City Manager's Report

August 6, 2020

Economic Projects

Porvair CDBG program	Still waiting for a date to hold an open house to show off the work being completed. We are shooting for the 3rd week of August.
Events and Marketing	Continue to conduct business interviews and promote local businesses through social media. There's been no indication from the state that gathering numbers will be increased by the end of summer. Still hoping for a Thursdays on Sweden before school gets back in session. Investigating possible outdoor drive-in concert venues.
Blight Cleanup	Planning Board was given blight toolkit to review. The home at 32 Fenderson Street has been torn down.
Hilltop Senior Living	Waiting for word from developers for an opening date.
Birdseye Cleanup	Additional investigations of piles on the property have resulted in significant narrowing of the clean up areas. Some additional testing is being conducted from some of the test holes. Over 60 loads of material have been removed from the site by the Public Works department in partnership with McGillans. Additional work is still necessary and will be addressed as test results are returned. Staff time is being tracked for grant match purposes. More informaiton is available on the Birdseye Redevelopment facebook page.
Title 13 ReWrite	Planning Board will review additional changes during their August 13 meeting. Much of the current review is coordinating local zoning, building and state codes.
Façade Improvement Grant Program	New façade improvement grant guidelines have been prepared and ready for Council review.
Sitel Building	No word yet from Mr. Cassidy about intended users in the building.
River Front - Powerplants	No additional movement on these properties.
River Front - DOT Lands	Grading work has begun near the intersection of Limestone and Railroad Street. We are still waiting for a site plan submittal to know what is beign developed on the site.
River Front - Salmon	Have not heard from Salmon operators since UMPI student provided their concept plans for the site.
Ms. Jordyn's Preschool	Mr. Cassidy is doing façade improvements to Ms. Jordyn's Preschool. The Façade Improvement funds are not currently available due to Mr. Cassidy being awarded funds already for 2020. However, the revised program guidelines would permit additional awards for this work.
NMDC	The SBA has awarded NMDC \$500,000 in Micro Loan Funds to be relent to small businesses. We are currently out of SBA Micro Loan Funds, businesses applying to NMDC for the Micro Loan Funds can have their loan payments paid by SBA for the first 6 months of the loan. The deadline for businesses to apply for Micro Loan Funds and have SBA make their first 6 months of payments is September 27, 2020.

Other Administrative & Department Projects

COVID-19 Status	Latest executive orders require all "customers" in publicly accessible areas to wear masks where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Additional signage has been placed around city hall. Staff have been asked to wear masks while in public areas.
Blight Commission	Accepting comments on the blight toolkit before bringing it back to Council for final approval.
Airport	Crack seal work completed. We were notified that the \$20K CARES grant is ready for the city to start utilizing.
Union Negotiations.	No additional progress with police unions. Need to discuss wages options with Council so we can start the 2021 contract negotiation cycle. No concerns with fire/EMS union. Need to have discussion with Council about amendments for 2021.
Snow Plowing RFP	Results of the bid process are on the August 10 agenda for Council consideration.
110 Washburn Rd Sale	This is on the August 10 Council agenda for consideration.
Teague Park	Splash pad bid documents are being finalized for advertisement with notice to contractors that work will start Spring 2021. Fencing around the tennis and basketball courts is completed. Striping should be completed shortly.
Fire Structural Study	Discussion to be held during August 10 Council meeting.
Capital Facility Maintenance Plans	First draft of the Public Works facilities needs has been submitted. Criterium Brown inspected City Hall, the Library and the Recreation Center between July 9 & 10. Waiting for those reports. Future inspection of Fire station to come. Maine Municipal inspected the Parks Maintenance Building on July 15. Awaiting that report. A safety walkthrough was conducted at the Nylander by staff. We appreciate the Parks department working to address the many issues there.
Sitel Reimbursements	Have reached out to Sitel but no response back.
North Main Street	Awaiting final decision of completion from DOT and cost share payment from DOT.
Wage Policy	On hold until higher priority Title 13 work is completed.
General Plan Update	Ken will pick this up again now that blight survey and toolkit are nearly completed.
River Road	No changes since last report. Continue to monitor latest failures. Dr. Chomka continues to investigate options.
Parking Lot Paving	Work on the north mall parking lot should start soon now that the North Main project is completed.
Public Safety Building	Awaiting further direction from the Council before proceeding with the police station study.
Procurement Policy	Waiting for final review memo from auditors.
Cable Franchise Renewal	On hold per Council direction