



City Manager's Report

January 7, 2022

Economic Projects

River Front - Powerplants	Reached out to Attorney Solman regarding time frame to allow contractor to work in building. The advice was to hold off on demolition work until the environmental plan has been completed. The City has received an update from County Environmental which has been forwarded to City Council members.
Broadband Initiative	Consolidated Communications made a presentation at the 12/13 City Council meeting. Spectrum has emailed that they are still interested in a partnership. More information is becoming available on various state broadband infrastructure programs.
CDBG	The 2022 CDBG Program is online at the DECD website, along with projected program timeframes. First deadline is February 25 for a Letter of Intent to Apply.
Ogren Dump Solar Project	No new updates
Events and Marketing	City staff is starting to work on Thursdays on Sweden Street plans.
Landbank	Legislature will take up the State Lank Bank language in coming session.
Chapter 13 Rewrite	Mr. Murchison is coordinating with Mr. Kamm from NMDC about possible dates to discuss Chapter 13 rewrite options.
Federal American Rescue Plan Act	The City received an additional \$465.86 in funding. The County has sent information about their program as well.
Blight Cleanup	No new updates. Blight remediation will begin again in the spring.
Birdseye Cleanup	A master plan for the site is the next step in completing the cleanup and preparing for future development.
60 Access Highway	A third amendment to the Downtown TIF District is on the agenda tonight. This property is part of the Caribou Light Industrial Park.
River Front - Master Plan	The meeting on 12/14 featured a zoom with Nate Moulton of Maine DOT, office of Freight and Passenger Services. Next meeting is January 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm.
Façade Improvement Program	Looking ahead to the 2022 program.
Aldrich ATV/Snowmobile Storage	A third amendment to the Downtown TIF District is on the agenda tonight. This property is part of the Caribou Light Industrial Park.
Jarosz Storage - Limestone St	No new updates
Business Outreach	Staff has spoken to owner of New England Kenworth who is moving into the former Grant's Dairy building on the Presque Isle Road.

Other Administrative Projects

Tax Acquired Property Policy	Property owners who lost properties in November 2021 have until 01-31-2022 to pay all taxes, costs and interests for all years if they wish to have ownership restored.
Nylander	The building has been re-keyed. Work continues on cataloging.
Fire Structural Work	There was another leak on 1/5. Jan Murchison of Sewall is working on this. Kevin Smith is sending someone.
Fire Station Renovations	No new updates.
Police Station	There was a committee meeting on Tuesday 1/4. Documents are on the City website. Artifex is working on a design that includes a basement.
River Road	No new updates.
Investment Policy	No new updates.
Trailer Park Closure	Caribou Housing Agency is working with four of the remaining families. Another family has moved out of the park. Progress is slow but steady.
Fish Hatchery Bridge	No update on the bridge project but MeDOT staff has met with residents about the old railroad bridge / culverts in an effort to improve the stream channel to the Aroostook River.
Cable Franchise Renewal	No new updates.
Airport	Fuel has been delivered. Dead River has been called to address an issue with one of the boilers.
Personnel Policy	No new updates.
Chambers AV System	There were issues during the 1/3/2022 organizational meeting. One issue is the YouTube streaming failure. Since that is a free service, we have no recourse. Bob Sowers/Oak Leaf is working on the microphone issue.
Procurement Policy	No new updates.
New LED Street lights	Staff had a brief conversation with R L Todd about lights and plans to have a longer conversation soon.
Comp Plan Update	NMDC has given an estimated figure of \$32,000 to update the 2024 Comprehensive Plan for submission.
COVID-19 Status	Aroostook County is still experiencing HIGH levels of community transmission per the CDC website. The Maine Board of Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) will hold a meeting January 18, 2022 @ 9am to consider rule adoption of OSHA ETS.
Administrative Approvals	Liquor license for Bechard's Grille; Special Amusement for Access 89 and Henry B Pratt American Legion Post 15.
Personnel Changes	The Deputy Tax Collector / Finance Assistant has resigned & the position has been posted.
Age-Friendly Efforts	Age-Friendly group met on Wednesday 1/5. They are looking for volunteers who want to roll up their sleeves and help improve the quality of life for seniors in Caribou.