



West Branch City Council  
City Administrator's Report  
1/22/19

**Pending Action Items:**

*(Wastewater Task Group)*

I have been informed that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has finished their review of the flow analysis portion of our facility plan (a state required step in designing a system that will allow the city to meet water discharge requirements. There were reports that DNR was holding permits from KLM for the new Stuelke sanitary sewer line. The holdup was an inappropriate action from DNR. Although, Public Works Director worked diligently to get this action corrected. This another example of the right-hand not knowing what the left-hand is doing. After probing for the reason this permit was held back we found out it was because our facility plan was not on their records. A plan that was waiting on DNR reviewers approve the flow analysis. So, essentially our development was held up due to their unresponsiveness.

This coupled with the confusion of the pedestrian bridge where DNR could not / would not permit a project that DNR extended a project grant for... I plan to reach out to Bobby Kauffman and Acting DNR Director Bruce Trautman with the hope to convey the message that West Branch is working diligently to address its wastewater treatment requirements, and we are in no need of any strong arm methods, particularly if it could harm construction or economic development.

Now, that the flow analysis has DNR approval, I will set appointment with V&K our engineering consultants as to the status of our facility plan. I also have met with Todd Baldrige of Baldrige Environmental Inc., he has jet back and forward to Asia and he is looking to secure the necessary enzymes to start the pilot project in March. We are still working on getting / setting up the shelter that will house the defused oxygen unit.

*College Street Bridge*

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) has accepted bids on behalf of the City of West Branch. IDOT has determined the contractor who provided the lowest responsive bid. The Awarded Vendor is Taylor Construction Inc. for a bid of \$1,666,025.10 (this is within our anticipated planning budget, but still may present cash flow issues that could need financing). Anticipated start date is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Bid

**Report from the Desk of the City Administrator:**

- On April 10, 2018, Governor Kim Reynolds signed Senate File 481, An Act Relating to the Enforcement of Immigration Laws and Providing Penalties and Remedies, Including the Denial of State Funds to Certain Entities. Senate File 481 (SF 481) is now codified at Iowa Code Chapter 825. SF 481 requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies consistent with the Senate file. After review this matter with both the City Attorney and the Chief of Police in was determined that such an action is best done with an internal department policy not needing City Council Approval. Attached is the policy in question.
- Croell Ready Mix Site Suggestions (Pool mention more than any other item).



- Public Scoping and Agency Coordination: July / August 2018
  - Preparation of Draft Environmental Assessment: June-October 2018
  - Environmental Assessment for Public Review: Fall 2018
  - Decision Document: Early 2019
  - Implementation: 2019
- I-80 Project – The City Engineering Firm V&K and I met with IDOT officials December 19<sup>th</sup> regarding the I-80 expansion project. As you know, the overpass over the old abandon Chicago Railroad line will be replaced with a box covert tunnel. The city currently have a force main and an existing water main running through this area as well. After some research, IDOT has verified that indeed a portion of the expense or relocation and updating these lines will be of a cost to (and responsibility of) the city. This is an expense that will need to be budgeted for in the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year. At this time we do not have design estimates as to the expense of this project.
  - A potential project which has asked to be kept confidential is currently studying the potential use of our newly established Planned Unit Development Ordinance. The project is expected to be discussed in public at the Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday January 29<sup>th</sup>. At this time, the project is being referred to as “Concept Six”. The project promises Retail / Hotel, Senior Living, and New Urbanist Style housing.
  - As you may know, communities across Iowa saluted and said a final goodbye to firefighter Lt. Eric Hosette. Lt. Hosette served as a fireman with the City of Clinton Iowa. He died in the line of duty when an explosion occurred during a response to a fire at an agriculture processing plant. The West Branch Fire and Police departments were among these communities. Lt. Hosette passed away January 5<sup>th</sup> 2019.



**Events / Scheduled Meetings:**

- **Indoor Walking – Call Parks Department at 319-930-0393**
- **Zumba – January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **Adult Volley Ball League 13, 20, and 27<sup>th</sup>**