



West Branch City Council
City Administrator's Report
12/02/19

Pending Action Items:

(Wastewater Topic)

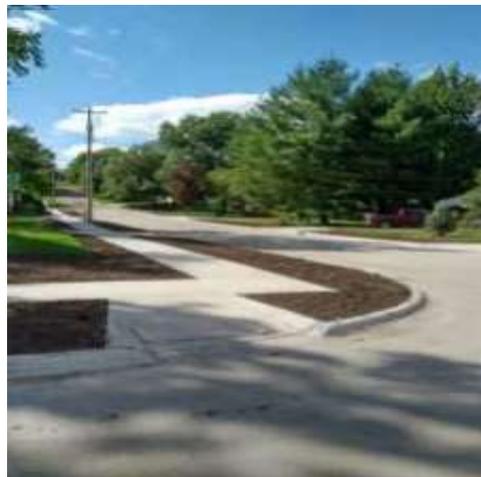
(DNR Unfunded Mandated Process)

Baldrige Environmental pilot project has proven to have gone well. Todd Baldrige will be giving a presentation regarding his results and his next recommended steps. The "Antidegradation Alternative Analysis for the City of West Branch Iowa" has concluded with no public comments, and sent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Our next step is to get our site separation agreement amended with our neighboring industrial partners (P&G and Nordex USA). We also have need to do soil samples at the projected site of the new lagoon needed for our new treatment process.

(College Street Bridge)



The ribbon cutting Ceremony for the opening of the College Street bridge done. There are a few remaining items, but the project is expected to be ready for final acceptance at the December 16th meeting.



If you have any questions, comments, or concerns; please do not hesitate to contact the city's project engineers.

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(Cubby Park)

Completed

Report from the Desk of the City Administrator:

- Administration is still looking into the viability of the \$100,000 Community Catalyst Grant. It is intended that this program could help the city's efforts in the downtown east redevelopment site. I will visit with ECIA regarding a potential partnership in preparing a potential grant.
 - Pre application Jan 31st
 - Application April 17th
 - Awards Announced in August 2020
- There is a **new budget resolution and public notification** that will need to be added to the overall budget process has prescribed by state law. The "Max Levy" will require cities and counties to give public notice as to a maximum levy. In other word before the budget is adopted there must be an estimation as to the maximum a city or county can levy in their anticipated budget. In most cases, this will be an educated guess because most of the budget will not be calculated at the time the "Max Levy" resolution is prepared. It is recommended to attempt to have the Max Levy approved in January. In order to allow room in the budget process for adjustment should unforeseen fiscal matters present themselves.
- The Iowa Association of Council of Governments (ICOG) will be pushing the State Legislature to accept legislation that would allow local governments to establish Land Banks. The powers of a land bank would likely include
 - The ability to acquire property tax through tax foreclosure at low or no cost.
 - Hold property tax-free
 - Clear title and eliminate back taxes on acquired properties
 - Lease properties for temporary use;
 - And negotiate sales to developers that closely align with community priorities and needs.

Follow up / Reminder Items:

- A "GoFundMe" account has been set-up for the West Branch Splash Pad. To support this project go to the following link: gf.me/u/w2tzn8
- Still working on Nuisance Enforcement Letters
- Still working on New Garbage Renewal Process
- Capital Improvement Reserve Levy – passed (will be used to present a stable tax rate).
- Meeting December 5th with the Iowa Great Places Committee, I will be asking the committee to consider two potential projects. Funding for splash pad with theme that could tie in other water features around the county; and/or funding for digital tourism kiosks network that will tie-in local sites, businesses, and tourist venues.



Digital tourism kiosks network



I have scheduled a meeting with JEO Consulting Group who helps with fund raising campaigns, grant writing, as well as design.

Library Update

Redmond,

Below is what the library has for a weekly update:

The West Branch Public **Library** has started a small test collection of devices called Launchpads (pictured below). Each Launchpad is a small tablet device with specific software on each to teach a concept. The **library** has the starting collection with Launchpads about shapes, math, creativity, critical thinking, and kindergarten readiness.



The State **Library** of Iowa has also begun pickup and delivery service for items borrowed between libraries. This service just began on November 14th and should serve to significantly reduce the reliance on mailing items as well as the costs of postage. The WBPL sits on the Thursday route through the state and will send and receive its first items through the service next Thursday, the 21st.

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Thanks,

Nick.

City of West Branch, IA

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