



West Branch City Council
City Administrator's Report
4/19/21

Pending Action Items:

(Wastewater Topic)

We have closed on the State Revolving Fund loan for the Planning and Design for the SAGR wastewater treatment facility in the amount \$619,000. Staff will be meeting with Iowa State Revolving Fund to understand how soon the City can begin to draw down funds to pay for some of the planning and design expenses the city has incurred. As a reminder and in preparation for capital expense related to the new state treatment standards, the city has instituted rate increases over the past year, and planned to continue over the next two years. The second tier of rate increases went into effect in February. The rate will increase \$10.29 per 1,000 gallons to \$12.79 per 1,000 gallons. This is the second year of the incremental rate increase plan approved by Ordinance December 16, 2019.

(28e Agreement with Johnson County - Roundabout)

Last week, I attended a meeting with several elected officials and staff of both the City of West Branch and Johnson County. The City expressed concern regarding the County's recent position to deny the offer to partner with the City in its request to allow for a payment plan for the City's portion of the project. The County shared its concern that such arrangements in the past have resulted in annexations soon after the construction projects were completed. Thus, convincing the Board of Supervisors that such arrangement isn't in the best interest. Intended as a compromise, the city and the county would consider a 28e agreement that would include language that would disallow an annexation for a negotiated time period, and/or a payment that would assist the county ensure their return on investment. There was also discussion regarding the other options outside of the roundabout option. At this time the engineers (both the city and the county) are reviewing the "free option" and the likelihood that a turn lane would likely be required (as warranted by the MPO of Johnson County). It is yet to be determined who should pay for the aforementioned turn lane. Attorney Olson is working with Johnson County Legal Department on a Draft that can be brought to City Council and the Board of Supervisors.

(Wapsi Creek Widening)

V&K continues to work with the Gaskill family on clarifying the scope of work for the Wapsi Creek Widening. V&K has presented a project scope that minimizes the land needed from the Gaskill property, and the project continues to hold to a better than originally expected 18 inch reduction in flood water estimates. The attempt to work through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has not gone anywhere, I shared with Kim Gaskill the need to move forward with a MOU with little result. After sharing updates with the City Attorney, I agree that we should keep the imminent domain process moving forward.

(Greenview Connection)

Is anticipated to be complete this spring / summer. Currently, staff is working with utilities company(s) to relocate utilities for the project. Legal is working with land owners for right of way and project land agreements. V&K has also made the determinations where the weather siren is to be relocated.

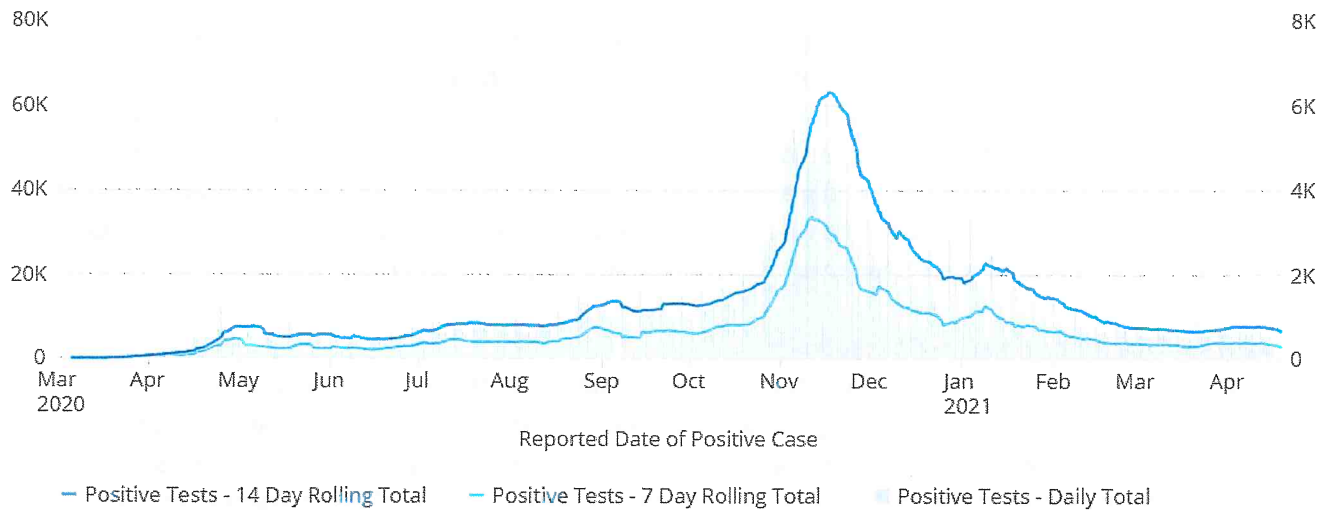
(Parkview Project)

Still waiting to be updated and receive confirmation from the developer's engineer with regards to alternative engineering strategies that address stormwater concerns.

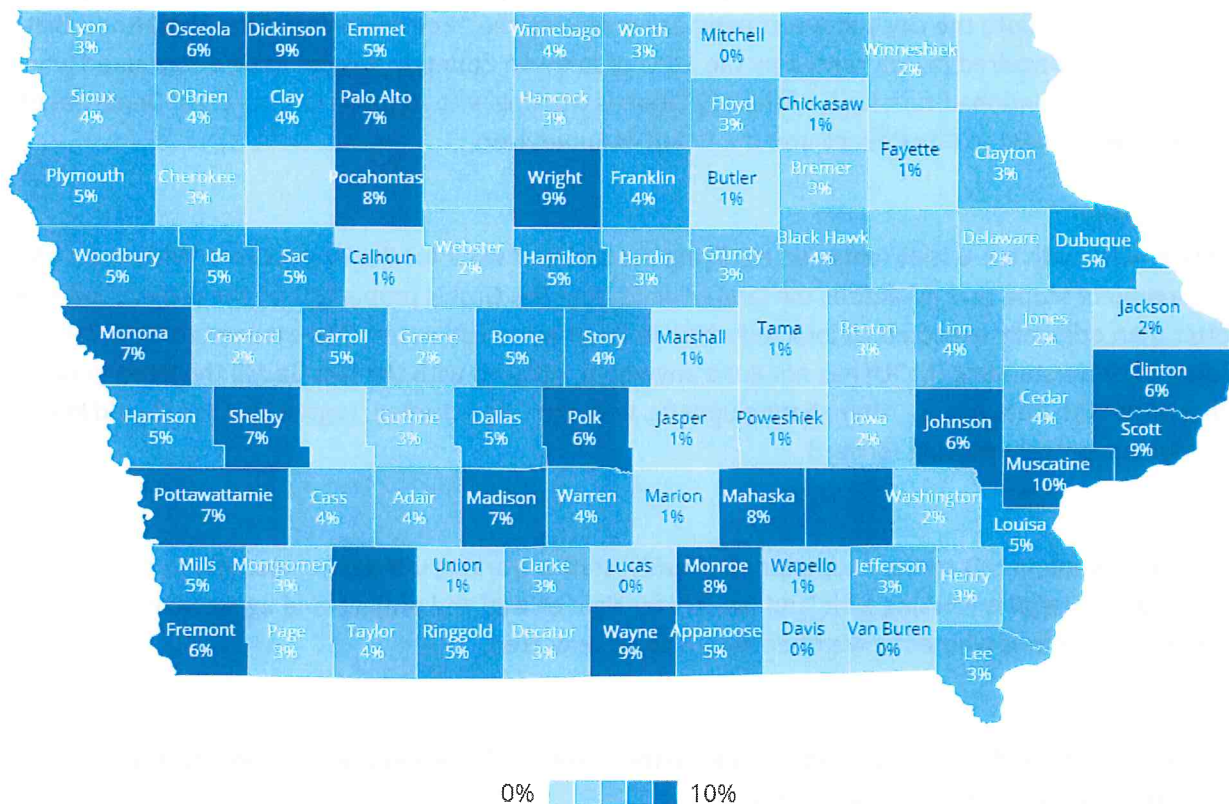
Report from the Desk of the City Administrator:

- Met with Staff to update we will be working on updating the Staff Work Plan and get timelines for outstanding projects.

Positive Tests



Positive Tests Last 7 Days



Follow up / Reminder Items:

- Thursday and Friday, I will be out of the office for training.
- Food Pantry Grant receipts and invoices are beginning to come in. One of three Food Pantries (the West Branch Food Pantry) and the Community Development Group (CDG) have presented the city invoices.
- Will start working on finance officer recruitment next month for the replacement of retiring finance director Edgar June 31, 2021.

