

LONG GROVE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

Greetings to all residents of Long Grove. If you are not a regular reader of my monthly newsletter, I encourage you to read it each month as it will keep you informed about City issues and projects, as well as provide you with the City Council meeting minutes for the previous month's Council meeting.

I am reminding all residents that there is a public hearing on water rate proposals at the August Council meeting, which will be held in person and via Zoom to accommodate residents wishing to attend either format. Please visit the City website for more information as the August 10 Council meeting and public hearing date approaches.

Over the course of several months, City Council and staff have discussed the Long Grove Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which includes street projects, a recreational trail extension, and water treatment. The current CIP was modeled from previous CIP's, along with the Long Grove citizen survey, and guidance from engineering and finance professionals to produce the most comprehensive and organized CIP to date.

Ever since I became your mayor, I have always encouraged our residents to provide input on our large-scale projects and our current CIP has been no exception. The City held a public forum specifically on the CIP on April 20, 2021 at 6:00PM. In maintaining complete transparency this public forum had been announced in my newsletter over several months prior to April 20 and City staff, Council, and I appreciated the attendance of the residents who joined us for this forum.

However, I recently became aware of a letter that has circulated around town which raises concerns about the proposed water rate increases and the water treatment project within the current CIP. The letter in question inaccurately states that the City has decided to pursue reverse osmosis (RO2) for water treatment, along with additional misinformation as it relates to municipal RO2. While I welcome citizen input, I must also ensure that any information that our residents receive is accurate. The reality is that while RO2 was presented by our engineer at the public forum, no decision has been made on its use at this time in any following Council meetings. Also, municipal RO2, which is an Iowa DNR and U.S. EPA approved process currently in use by cities throughout Iowa and the United States, is vastly different than the description in the letter.

The next reality is that nobody likes water rate increases, or any rate increases for that matter. The last water rate increase was a year prior to me being elected as your mayor, which was over 8 years ago. The water rates went up, but the water quality did not change. The proposed water rate increases, which are necessary to facilitate the water treatment project, will yield much better water quality for all Long Grove residents. The final reality is that even if there was no proposed water treatment project, water rates will still need to increase to maintain our aging water tower and older water distribution infrastructure as the Long Grove water fund lacks the necessary revenue streams to continue to avoid rate increases, such as the revenue streams available to our larger neighboring communities.

To learn more about our CIP or to assist our residents with answers to questions that they may have regarding our CIP, or specifically water treatment, a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) is enclosed with this newsletter. I encourage our residents to read through it as it contains a wealth of information.

In an effort to combat stench and flies at the wastewater treatment plant, Public Works Director Tony Saladino has requested that all yard clippings and other yard waste be bagged when brought to the yard waste container at the plant. The loose grass clippings and other yard debris have created a foul odor and fly problem, especially during these summer months. The cooperation of our residents in this effort will be greatly appreciated by our staff who work at the plant, as well as our neighbors who live near the facility.

Congratulations to Max Vannorsdel and Rhea Green on winning the July Long Grove trivia contest in their respective categories. They correctly answered the July questions, which include the answers below.

The two trivia questions and answers for **July** are listed below.

1. In August of 1838 two brothers purchased 160 acres of timber land in our area for \$160. What were the names of the two brothers?

Answer: Alexander and James Brownlie

2. What was the year that the first school opened in Long Grove?

Answer: 1841

The two trivia questions and answers for **June** are listed below.

1. What was the name of the bank (that used to be the former City Hall) on the corner of First and Main Street?

Answer: Stockman's Savings Bank

2. What were the names of the bandits who robbed the bank?

Answer: Harry Hamilton and Roy Purple

This month's trivia questions are listed below.

1. On April 5, 1858 an organization was created to improve agricultural methods and crops grown in the area. What was the name of this organization?
2. Who was the first president of this organization?

Good luck to everyone who participates in our monthly trivia challenge. I thought it would be fun to learn some facts about Long Grove and to encourage learning about the town's history.

I wish everyone my warmest regards for a safe and healthy August.

Sincerely,

Michael Limberg, Mayor

CITY OF LONG GROVE COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES JULY 13th 2021

The City of Long Grove, Iowa met in open session electronically via Zoom due to COVID-19 and in person at City Hall. Mayor Limberg called the Long Grove City Council Meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Roll Call: Present –Cindy Blinkinsop, Mark Abdon, Kevin Green, & Michael Boddicker; Absent- Nancy Herrin. The agenda was approved on a motion by Blinkinsop, seconded by Green, all ayes, motion carried. Blinkinsop moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Green, all ayes, motion carried. The mayor welcomed guests.

The mayor opened the Capital Improvement Plan FY21-31 Public Hearing. The mayor read a public comment received from City Hall. With no other public comments, Boddicker moved to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Abdon, all ayes, motion carried.

Blinkinsop moved to read Resolution 2021-13 Approving FY 2021-2031 Capital Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Abdon, all ayes, motion carried. Resolution 2021-13 was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes- Abdon, Blinkinsop, Green; Nay- Boddicker; Absent-Herrin.

Boddicker moved to read Resolution 2021-14 Setting Public Hearing Date for Proposed Ordinance 01-2021 Water Rate Increase & Billing Due Date Amendment. The motion was seconded by Blinkinsop, all ayes, motion carried. Resolution 2021-14 was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes- Abdon, Blinkinsop, Green, Boddicker; Absent-Herrin.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Long Grove Fire Department's request to purchase city property. The topic was tabled pending further review and discussion.

Abdon moved to read Resolution 2021-15 Setting Public Hearing Date for Proposed Curb & Driveway Ordinance 02-2021. The motion was seconded by Blinkinsop, all ayes, motion carried. Resolution 2021-15 was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes- Abdon, Blinkinsop, Green, Boddicker; Absent-Herrin.

Abdon moved to read Resolution 2021-16 Zoning Review Application Form & Fees. The motion was seconded by Blinkinsop, all ayes, motion carried. Resolution 2021-16 was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes- Abdon, Blinkinsop, Green, Boddicker; Absent-Herrin.

Blinkinsop moved to approve the committee of the whole recommendation to trade in and place on hold a previously owned county dump truck for purchase later this year. The motion was seconded by Green, all ayes, motion carried.

The council tabled Resolution 2021-17 Special Events Application, Approval Process & Fees and set a Committee of the Whole date August 3rd at 7:00 pm to further discuss this item.

After hearing committee and staff reports, the mayor requested council return to in-person meetings, if and when comfortable. Following his report, the mayor opened the meeting to public comments. After hearing public comments, Blinkinsop moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Green, all ayes, motion carried.