

## City Manager's Report

January 3, 2020

Council and Colleagues, Happy New Year!

These reports will be included in the City Council packet for regularly scheduled Council meetings, excluding Work Session meetings. Accordingly, this is the first report for the 2020 calendar year. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the City organization. In no particular order...

### **Washington DC Advocacy for Rio de Flag**

On December 10<sup>th</sup> a number of City representatives, including Mayor Evans, Councilmember Aslan, Councilmember Odegaard, the City Manager, and Deputy City Manager Shane Dille went to our Nation's Capitol to meet with our federal lobbyist, Bob Holmes. Over the course of two days, we then attended 13 meetings with our Delegates, and members of the ACOE and OMB. By all measures, it was a successful endeavor, albeit one with a very fast pace and a crazy-full agenda. Our lobbyist did a masterful job of orchestrating a very busy itinerary and our elected officials represented the City in the most excellent way.





## Holidays

The Flagstaff Holiday season brought forth a lot of cheer, reflection, and celebration. City Hall closed at noon on Christmas Eve, and was closed for Christmas Day and New Years Day.



City Hall played venue to a very nice and well attended Grand Menorah Lighting on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, with music, singing, good food, and festivities.

It also played venue to the most recent filming of GCTV, where Holiday greetings were extended to the organization, along with details regarding our United Way campaign (underway). We are grateful for the guest appearance by Santa Dille (below).

The New Year's Eve fireworks took place on the top level of the Old Town Shops parking garage this year, instead of the Babbitt building. This was necessitated by private property considerations, but it appeared to work just fine.



### **Airport Enplanements and Holiday Issues**

The staff at the Airport has done a remarkable job in trying to keep pace with rapidly increasing enplanements and seasonal traffic. It has been challenging as resources and infrastructure are sorely lacking. Notwithstanding our efforts to provide overflow parking in a newly constructed temporary parking lot, our Airport reached and exceeded capacity flow over the busy Holiday season. Anecdotally, our Airport Director Barney Helmick reported that about 150 vehicles did not have spaces to park, resulting in dispersed, non-compliant parking throughout the parking complex.

We have much work to do to get this right, but efforts are underway toward that objective. Expect a lot of discussion and updates in the months ahead as we embark on long-term solutions to this parking issue, and related topics concerning the Airport.

### **New Recruits**

A warm and hearty “Welcome” to Jeanie Gallagher, our new Human Resources Director. She started her orientation on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and has hit the ground running. And with her arrival, a heartfelt “Farewell” to Allison Eckert, who has served the organization admirably as Interim Director for Human Resources over the past several months. Allison had this nice note to share upon her departure as Interim HR Director:

*It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Interim Human Resources Director over the past few months. I cannot say enough about how much I have enjoyed working with this amazing team and I appreciate having had this wonderful opportunity. I know I'll carry the things I've learned here with me to my next adventure, and I'll always look back on this experience with fondness. The people that make up “Team Flagstaff” have honestly been one of the best parts of working here.*

On the topic of human resources, interviews are underway for the Senior Executive Assistant and the full-time Indigenous Coordinator positions. Over-the-phone interviews took place over the past two weeks, and in-person interviews for both positions will be occurring on January 7<sup>th</sup> (Senior Executive Assistant) and January 9<sup>th</sup> (Indigenous Coordinator). The Mayor will be assisting in the former process, with two members of our Indigenous community (Steve Peru and Joe Washington) assisting on the latter process. Stay tuned. We have excellent candidates for both positions.

### **Miscellaneous Updates**

I had 1:1 meetings with Councilmember Regina Salas on December 16<sup>th</sup>, Councilmember Odegaard on December 19<sup>th</sup>, and Councilmember Aslan on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember McCarthy and I met on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Community Development quarterly meeting was attended on December 16<sup>th</sup>, providing a great opportunity to continue introductions with the entire staff.

On December 17<sup>th</sup> I participated in a tour of Coconino Community College with President Colleen Smith and Chief Development and Government Relations Officer Steve Peru. It was an informative tour, during the semester break, and similar to other tours around the community in recent months, it helped provide an invaluable acquaintance with the institution and its leadership.



On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, I attended a regular meeting with County Manager Jim Jayne, and we were joined by Paul Kulpinski with LAUNCH Flagstaff.

The community meeting component of the Fair and Impartial Policing training will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

We are needing to orchestrate a visit to BNSF Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, sometime in the next several weeks. This should be attended by the Mayor and one or two chosen Councilmembers. Let's please discuss...it will be slated as an agenda item under this Report.

Fleet Services worked hard to get the Flagstaff Airport Sno-Dozer fixed in time for this latest snow event over the Holidays. It was a herculean effort as this unit suffered a significant failure of the hydraulic clutch assembly and parts had to be shipped from Wisconsin.

Fleet Services rushed a new 10-wheel snowplow truck into service on December 24<sup>th</sup> to meet the operational needs during the same event. As an aside, several Solid Waste Collection operators assisted with this past storm and will continue to provide assistance when needed.





Members of the FFD command staff, wildland crew 1 and A-shift crew for Summit Fire enjoyed a potluck at annual holiday party. Related, United Flagstaff Fire Fighters had a record setting year for the 'Fill the Boot' campaign. They raised \$33,326 and finished 96<sup>th</sup> in the country out of 1,500 Locals!

Finally, but certainly not least, the P3 Partnership between ADOT, City of Flagstaff, and VP Cinema, which has been pending for many years, was brought to closure on December 20<sup>th</sup>. All documents have been recorded, and the release of all funds and escrow has closed. Congratulations to all parties, and major props to the Community Development Division for seeing this project through completion!

That's all for now. The next report will include draft outcomes from our Council/Staff retreat in early December. Onward and Upward!