

City Manager's Report

December 31, 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. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the City organization. Every month we include a Capital Projects Update which is appended to this Report. It is very informative. Also, starting in the 2021, these reports will include employee recognitions as a regular feature, noting awards, working anniversaries, retirements, special accomplishments, and the like.

Well then, in no particular order...

Fire Department

Council may recall a rather horrific reporting, earlier this summer, involving child abuse that ultimately took the life of a young boy. After Child Protective Services became involved, the remaining three siblings went into a foster home. Captain Sanders with our Flagstaff Fire Department (FFD) became aware of this fostering arrangement through his girlfriend. Captain Sanders and his girlfriend subsequently decided to adopt this foster family for Christmas and do a small fundraiser. In just a few short days, several members of the Flagstaff Fire Department had raised \$3,000 for the family! The family expressed gratitude and repeatedly thanked the Department. We are so proud of this generosity by such caring individuals.

On the subject of thanks, the FFD also received a thank you note from a community member for the gift of warmth this winter. This community member was able to acquire free wood from the Shultz Pass site when they had been unsuccessful in being able to find any other options. Again, thanks to care and outreach by our firefighters.

Human Resources

Human Resources has finalized the set-up of the new performance evaluation system, PERFORM. They have provided training to all City staff and the system will be going live during the month of January.

Human Resources staff have presented the recommendations from the compensation study on pay structures to Leadership and the Employee Advisory Committee. This is very much a work-in-progress and it will be circling back to Council in the near future. Stay tuned.

Human Resources is partnering with Payroll on the implementation of a timekeeping system called KRONOS. These new systems represent technological upgrades that will greatly assist our processes and allow for better efficiencies.

Police Department

This time of year, we offer our remembrance of Officer Stewart who gave his life in the line of duty on December 27, 2014. Tyler Stewart was one of two officers with the Flagstaff Police Department who have given their life protecting our community. He had been an officer for less than a year when he answered the call that cost him his life. Officer Stewart is indeed in our thoughts and our hearts.

Officers delivered toys to families in need as part of the Law Enforcement Toy Drive (co-sponsored by the Flagstaff Law Enforcement Officers Association and the Department). We received \$11,000 in monetary donations along with hundreds of toys from the community! We spread holiday joy to 400 children from 150 different families.

Staff worked to get toys delivered to Supai via helicopter. Supai families were greatly impacted by COVID-19 and the lack of tourism, so the need for holiday cheer was especially high this year. Great work by the elves in uniform!

The Flagstaff Police Department (FPD) Recruitment Team is working on new recruitment initiatives to attract qualified applicants to the Department. Recruitment is down, as was recently reported to the Council, so these initiatives are greatly appreciated.

Officer Matt Schmidt, who is assigned to public housing, teamed up with the Housing Authority to welcome a new family to the Brannen home neighborhood. In meeting the family, he was able to give them a warm welcome, hand out some police swag, and provide his direct contact information. The walk thru and welcome are a trend we are seeking to continue with new residents to further community policing initiatives in the neighborhoods. Thanks, Officer Schmidt!

Public Works

Parks and Sustainability are partnering on a pilot project for a 196 square foot greenhouse as part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge 2021. All of the materials needed including the display of geothermal, solar, and electric for heating choices are considered, documented, and reviewed for efficiencies to bring this project to the Community as a do-it-yourself. The project will provide both a seed germination location for Parks as well as an educational opportunity for Sustainability to share with the public regarding the importance of milkweed and other pollinator plants.

Parks and Streets staff assisted, along with ParkFlag and the Downtown Business Alliance (DBA), with assembling four (4) gazebos located at Heritage Square. A big thank you to the entire *Expanded Use of Rights-of-Way* (EUROW) team on the efforts in place to continue to assist downtown businesses by allowing for social distancing and outside seating. Of note, the gazebos held up well during the recent snow/wind event that brought some impressive gusts into the area.



The signs and markings group is preparing for the re-naming of a downtown street to WC Riles. This work includes signpost installations, sign fabrication, and a logistics plan for a timely change out scheduled for early January 2021.

The metal recycling contractor has removed 170.43 tons, 14 loads from the Landfill!



The Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center was the staging area for the *Adopt a Grandparent* program.

Sustainability

The Sustainability Commission will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2021, 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

The City Council passed Resolution 2020-70, signing onto The *We Are Still In Coalition's* "All In" Climate Statement. Local Press Coverage and statement from former Mayor Evans can be found here: <https://www.signalsaz.com/articles/city-affirms-commitment-to-global-climate-action-on-the-fifth-anniversary-of-the-paris-agreement/>



Individuals and small family groups have been busy cleaning up adopt and avenue locations as well as the FUTS and washes in our community. Of note, WL Gore offers its employees 8 hours of paid leave to volunteer in our community. This particular Community Steward volunteer, proudly shown in the photo, spent his 8 hours cleaning up the washes near both local WalMart Stores. He collected 16 bags of litter. Thanks Will!

Some quick updates on energy use:

- 65% of Residential Energy Rebates has been distributed this fiscal year.
- The Arizona Public Service (APS) Solar Communities project at the Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (NACET) has encountered a slight problem. The solar structure is complete and received the green tag from the City. However, our construction dock caught an

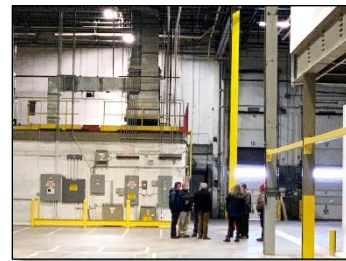
error in the compatibility between the inverters and the transformer. APS has worked diligently with the construction dock to come up with a solution that minimizes the delay and any disruptions to the site and building. Due to the incompatibility, APS will need to set a new transformer. Staff are awaiting a timeline for the fix. Stay tuned.

- Staff are finalizing the outreach plan for launching *Solar United Neighbors*, the solar renewable energy co-op.

Recent Meetings to Note

The Government Affairs Committee for the Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council met on Dec 22nd and discussed a very draft proposed legislative bill pertaining to Rural Management Areas (RMAs). I serve as Co-Chair for the Government Affairs Committee with Deputy Manager Joanne Keene of Coconino County. This proposal would see some administration of these RMAs at the local level rather than at the state level. Much more will be reported on this as it moves forward through the legislative process.

On December 29th we met with a consortium of individuals who represent a successful light-industrial corporation that is interested in expanding its operations into the largely vacant Walgreens facility here in Flagstaff. The details of this possible endeavor cannot be publicly provided at this time, but hopefully we will have something to report in the near future. Stay tuned.



Human Resource Director Jeanie Gallagher and I will be having a continued discussion regarding the Compensation Study with the Employee Advisory Council (EAC) on Wednesday, January 6th.

On Dec. 15th the Rio de Flag city staff team met with representatives of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad to further our discussions related to mitigation requirements for the project. City Council will receive an update on this project in the near future.

I have had recent one-on-one meetings with Councilmember Aslan, Councilmember McCarthy, and Councilmember Salas. These meetings have occurred monthly, with some exceptions. I meet weekly with Mayor Deasy and Councilmember Shimoni. I would like to structure ongoing meetings with our other newly elected council members and will be reaching out (with the assistance of Jason Cook) to arrange meeting times that work. Look for this, and thanks.

Capital Improvements

As noted in the introductory paragraph, attached is the monthly Capital Improvements Update. Please give it a read ... good stuff.

That's it for now. Onward and upward ...