

City Manager's Report

February 28, 2022

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports will be included in the City Council packet for regularly scheduled Council meetings. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the City organization. This report will include our January and February work anniversaries and we will hopefully be recognizing a couple of significant anniversaries during the Council meeting. Also appended to this report is the monthly update from Water Services (January), Capital Improvements (March), Sustainability (February), IT (February).

Work Anniversaries January & February, 2022

Five Years:

Elizabeth Verstraete, IT Administrator
(1/17/17)



Brian Sutter, Public Works Supervisor
(1/17/17)



Colleen Calhoun, Administrative Specialist
(1/17/17)



Christopher Palmer, Project Manager
(1/17/17)



Mathew Black, WS Operate 2
(1/30/17)



Lorraine Martinez-Buell, Finance Specialist
(1/30/17)



Benjamin Jones, Construction Inspector
(1/30/17)



Jennifer Niemann, Climate Program Manager
(2/13/17)



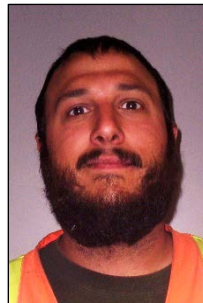
Ten Years:

Lyle Kenefick, Streets Operation Tech
(2/21/12)



Fifteen Years:

Gino Leoni, Parks Supervisor
(1/02/07)



Nicole Antonopoulos, Sustainability Director
(1/02/07)



Ryan Turley, Police Sergeant
(1/08/07)



Brian George, Maint Tech III
(2/12/07)



Dustin Kuhns, Police Sergeant
(2/26/07)



Justin Emerick, Project Manager
(2/26/07)



Chad Hiser, Fire Captain Paramedic
(2/26/07)



Shane Spravzoff, Firefighter Paramedic
(2/26/07)



Wesley Forbach, Fire Engineer Paramedic
(2/26/07)



Daniel Schaeffer Chavez, Fire Captain
Paramedic
(2/26/07)



Kevin Wiles, Fire Captain Paramedic
(2/26/07)



James McCullough, Firefighter Paramedic
(2/26/07)



Twenty Years:

Margaret Roederer, CVB Communications Specialist
(2/07/02)



Twenty-five Years Plus (Ding, Ding, Ding):



Ralph Hearne, who has dedicated his expertise to the Parks Section for 26 years, brings to our team institutional knowledge, an incredible history of all things parks, FUTS and Citizens Cemetery related. He also has a wherewithal of budget that is accompanied by some of the best fiscal responsibility out there for the organization. Ralph is currently the Supervisor for the Citizens Cemetery and also oversees the trash/restroom cleaning crew. Desert hikes, history and culture as well as fútbol are of some of his passions, in addition to his amazing furry family member.

Rather than sharing a picture of himself, Ralph wanted to share a picture of his favorite place – Mexico City! Ralph, we are thankful to have you on the PROSE team!



Carrie Nelson is the Administrative Specialist for Discover Flagstaff and is celebrating 27 years of service with Team Flagstaff. “I can’t believe it’s been 27 years here at the City of Flagstaff! I started in the Human Resources office, first, as the HR Clerk and then promoted to the HR Administrative Assistant for the first five years with the City. When a new position was advertised in another department, I applied and was hired at the Convention and Visitors Bureau as the new Administrative Specialist. Twenty-two years later in this department I can honestly say that I have had many great experiences in this position. Tourism and promoting Flagstaff comes easy when you live in a town that you love.”

Well said, Carrie, and thanks for your incredible service to the City!

Jeff James was hired as a police officer in 1993, following in the footsteps of his father who retired from FPD. James was subsequently certified to be a motorcycle and was later promoted to Sergeant. In 2014, he was assigned as the traffic unit supervisor. He approached this new challenge with a passion and developed several programs within the traffic unit that currently provide direct communication between the police department and the citizens we serve.



James has served as a Field Training Officer, DARE Instructor, Collision Reconstructionist, Driving Instructor, and is past recipient of the Meritorious Service Award, the globally renown City Managers Award, and Officer of the Year awards.

James is also a member of the Department's Ethics Committee. He presents quarterly ethics training to employees and helps our officers give the best possible customer service to our citizens. His leadership and dedication provides quality customer service to everyone in our community! Thank you, Jeff ... you rock!



Shalaine Lindley-Bigler began her career with the City of Flagstaff in February of 1995 as an Animal control Officer. In 2009, during the Great Recession her position was cut, and rather than leaving the City, she transferred to an open parking control position. What dedication!

Shalaine worked parking control until the Department was able to fund the Animal Control Position again in 2017. Some of the many highlights of Shalaine's career:

- Working through rabid skunk and rabid fox epidemics in Flagstaff.
- Tracking a determined black bear for over two hours through the Country Club Neighborhood.
- Recovering a stolen bird on a loose dog call for service.
- Receiving the universally acclaimed City Managers Award.
- Painting the Memorial Wall inside the Police Department.
- Helping to get Park Flag up and running.

Thank you Shalaine for your 27 years of service and dedication! You are an inspiration to us all, and we can't wait to hear about your next adventure!

Stacey Brechler-Knaggs (aka, Stacey BK, SBK, “Money Finder”) started with the City in 1984. Yes, some quick math reveals that she has been here for 38 years! She graduated from Northern Arizona University (go Jacks) and she comes from a strong government family which has instilled her incredible devotion to community service.

Stacey oversees the Grants, Contracts and Emergency Disaster Recovery Programs in the Management Services Purchasing Section. She and her team have processed, organized, and monitored thousands of contracts; have received millions of dollars for the City in grant revenue for many important projects; and have worked several emergency events to help our community respond and recover from disasters. To note, over the past ten years, the City has realized over \$115M in Federal funding alone! Umm ... thanks, Stacey!

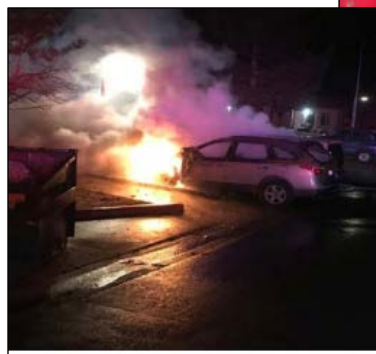
Accomplishments include: Law Enforcement Administration Building, Airport Runway Extension, Air Rescue Firefighting Facility, Business Incubator and Accelerator Buildings, Police Swat and Bomb Trucks, and others. Stacey’s professionalism and institutional knowledge of the City of Flagstaff makes her a true asset to the organization.

In her free time, which is scarce, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, hiking, reading, and traveling.



Fire Department

- Fire Department crews responded to two vehicle and pedestrian accidents. One at Fourth Street near 2nd Avenue and the other at S. Milton and University Avenue. In addition, the Department personnel extricated a patient without injuries from a vehicle and extinguished a car fire in Clark Homes.



- Command staff awarded Bobby Romero, Josh Crane, Earl Gutierrez, Dan Chavez, Austin Rupe and Kate Williams with unit citations for their strong work on a recent code save!



- Fire crews responded to a chimney fire in Baderville. Crews arrived and noticed smoke coming from a wooden chimney box located on the roof of the residence. Further investigation revealed that there was a fire in this box that was threatening the attic space. Crews were able to make access into this area by using a chainsaw so they could extinguish the fire before it spread into the house. Great job guys!



Police Department

- Patrol and Detectives continued follow up for a missing person, who went missing on Sunday the 6th from her residence in Railroad Springs.
- DC Mansfield met with partner agencies on exploring a local police academy.
- Staff Members attended training to assist with the 2022 Annual Point in Time Count of unsheltered in our community.

- Officer Michel Hansen was recognized as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) FPD Officer of the year by our local VFW chapter on Saturday February 5th. Mike Hansen began his career with our agency in 2013, after completing a degree at Northern Arizona University (an excellent college) in Justice studies. Mike attended the Northern Arizona Regional Training Academy and graduated in May of 2014. It didn't stop there. Mike spent several years gaining experience in patrol prior to being promoted to Detective. He was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division in 2020 and inherited a very complex robbery case which, after two jury trials, resulted in a guilty verdict and a lengthy prison sentence. There are many other instances to show his success and determination. He is a very accomplished member of our Police Department. He frequently volunteers to come in early or stay late, and his peers and leadership feel he is most deserving of this award. We do, too. Officer Hansen, congratulations! Your service is truly appreciated.



- On February 11th, Officer Mike Priest responded to the Wells Fargo bank on S. Milton Road to assist with an Armed Robbery call for service. Officer Priest searched the area looking for anyone matching the description provided by staff and investigators on scene. While in the area of Butler Ave. and S. Humphreys St., Officer Priest located and contacted an individual who matched the description. Upon contact, he positively identified the individual as the suspect involved in the robbery, and placed him in custody without incident. Officer Priest is commended for his diligence in searching for the individual and utilizing his skills to take the suspect into custody without injury. His actions exemplify the Flagstaff Police Department's commitment to the preservation of life while providing exemplary service to the community. Well done, sir!



PROSE

- Beck Thomas joined the PROSE team as an Administrative Specialist. Welcome Beck!
- The Thorpe Park Annex Project virtual information sessions are coming up on March 2nd and March 5th. Zoom Registration is requested for March 2nd at 5:30:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7020uce2orTMIetAlOkizDrP5uBC0k...>
- For Saturday, March 5th at 11:00am - Zoom registration:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7020uce2orTMIetAlOkizDrP5uBC0k...>
- Aquatics Coordinator, Angela Kennedy, has been performing a lifeguard instructor class for both City and NAU employees and we had 5 new instructors pass this week! Up next will be CPR training for those interested in PROSE!



- This just in: Spring must be near, as our crews out at the Aquaplex tackled a much-needed sidewalk project recently. The old walkway was demolished and replaced with new sidewalk panels. Props to Emry Pensinger, David Todirita, Paul McGuire, Anthony Milligan and Dan White! Smooth work, gang!



- Kahtoola for the People (<https://kahtoola.com/about/kahtoola-for-the-people/>) is supporting school programming with sixth grade Science “Heartwood” teachers at Mount Elden Middle School (MEMS). With safety guidelines in place, over the last two months, environmental education programming in connection with indigenous culture was offered for all sixth-grade students, totaling five classes. Very cool.
- At Hal Jensen Recreation Center, the youth have been finding an interest in lifting weights and working out in the fitness center. Informing our youth of the benefits of physical activity balanced along with nutrition are just some of the educational tasks the recreation staff embody.

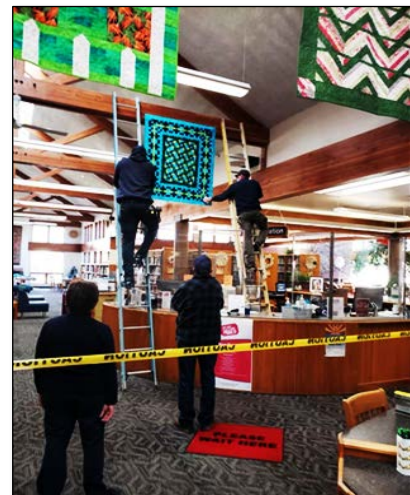


- At Jay Lively Activity Center (JLAC) and at the Aquaplex, staff are preparing to on Monday, February 28th, to return to the hybrid tier regarding pandemic restrictions that were in-place prior to January 11th. At JLAC, the public skate capacity will increase from 50 to 100, and at the Aquaplex, the pool area for recreational swim will increase capacity from 30 to 50 plus bring back private swim lessons.
- A group of Open Space Stewards helped to spread straw over native grass seed at the east side of Picture Canyon, under the direction of Natural Channel Design staff. Once the native grasses sprout and grow, there will be less room for invasive weeds!



Public Works

- At Pulliam Airport the new Long-Term Parking Lot programmed concrete driveway at Liberator Ln. (overflow parking lot / ARFF entrance) installation has been completed. The final scheduled driveway replacement (rental lot immediately east of the terminal) is scheduled to be replaced during the week of February 14th. Final paving (along Pulliam Dr) is anticipated to conclude by February 25th (weather permitting). The construction of the screen walls within the parking lot has been completed.
- Facilities has been busy with wall repairs at Joe C Montoya, repairing a loose section of roof at City Hall, Aquaplex hot tub repairs, fixing damaged lights at the Public Works yard, repairing bay heaters at Fire Station 5, and are continuing with the LED light upgrade at Hal Jensen.
- Facilities team assisted the Downtown Library with the annual Hanging of the Quilt Display. Beautiful crafts.
- The Electric Vehicle (EV) Parking at Pulliam Airport will be delayed due to national shipping and supply shortages. The APS team will move forward with the placement of all underground improvements to allow for the concrete sidewalk to be placed. Then the above ground hardware when it became available.



- Cross-training in Solid Waste has been taking place this last week to share knowledge, experience, and ensure the operators are proficient in the equipment used throughout the entire program. This will continue as staffing allows. It also proved quite useful during last week's snow event, as some of our operators were teaming up with the Streets crew to help clear the streets.

Letters of Support

Appended hereto are a couple of letters of support for your information, related to pending legislation and potential BIL funding. On the BIL funding, attached is the final draft letter of interest for Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) assistance on the Red Gap project, which was discussed in the meeting we had with Lee Story, Nicole Antonopoulos, Sterling Solomon, and Andy Bertelsen. Kevin Black with BOR has reviewed for technical program accuracy.

With regard to the HCR 2031 letter, a couple of comments: If approved by voters, this bill will amend the Arizona constitution, enabling the State Legislature to set all employee wages and benefits in the state, including those offered by private employers. This of course would conflict with and arguably override other Constitutional provisions and voter-approved laws protecting employee pensions, minimum wage, and sick leave benefits. The statewide preemption would prohibit cities and towns (but not counties and school districts) from regulating wages and benefits.

Sunshine Transport Solutions Corp (STSC)

Council, please see attached to this Report an executive summary from the STSC that will give you adequate background on this topic. STSC presented to the MetroPlan team a while back and recently has been in conversations with some of you, I believe, about bringing a new transit system to Flagstaff. Specifically, the request is to have some time in front of Council at a future work session to show this presentation. I am not advocating for such, with our current workload and agenda, but out of professional courtesy I am forwarding this information to you for your consideration.

Monthly Reports

Also appended hereto are the Capital Improvements Update for March; the Water Services Monthly Update for January; and the Sustainability Monthly Update for February, and Information Technology Monthly Update for February. They are all good reads.

That's a wrap, Council. More later. Onward and upward!