

City Manager's Report

April 18, 2024

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports will be included in the City Council packet for Council Work Sessions. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the city organization. Appended to this report you will find the March update from Sustainability, the Q1 update from IT, the Q1 update from Water Services, and the March update from Economic Vitality.

Water Services

Attached to the City Manager's Report is a letter that will be sent to Swiss Manor and Shadow Mountain neighborhoods. The city is required to send this notice to these neighborhoods due to the repetitive loss claims determined by the National Flood Insurance Program.

The City of Flagstaff has participated in the FEMA NFIP since 1983. The Stormwater Section currently administers the related floodplain regulations that affords the community with a 25% flood insurance discount. This discount is administered through the FEMA Community Rating Service (CRS) which provides annual spot audits of our regulations and 5-year comprehensive audits to ensure compliance with minimum and recommended FEMA flood risk abatement standards. We completed our current 5 year cycle this March and are working towards implementing FEMA required changes as well as Arizona Department of Water Resources recommended changes.

The Shadow Mountain and Swiss Manor neighborhoods are immediately downstream of the south flank of Mount Elden. These neighborhoods have experienced flooding most recently in 2003, 2014, and 2021 from un-named drainages and hillslope sheet flow. Additional flooding has occurred in the two named drainages (Spruce Wash and Fanning Wash) beyond the three summers mentioned above. The floods in the unnamed drainages have triggered multiple studies and drainage designs including the 2010 Northeast Area Master Drainage Study, a 2014 USDA-NRCS flood assessment, a 2021 post-flood engineering assessment, and a 2024 post-wildfire flood prediction study, among others.

The purpose of this memo is not to go into detail of those results however a brief synopsis is warranted. The 2021 post-flood assessment, titled: "South Elden Post Flood Assessment" by two local engineering firms (JE Fuller and Woodson Engineering) determined that 524 property parcels were at risk of flooding in Swiss Manor, Shadow Mountain, Upper and Lower Greenlaw Estates, and Mobile Haven due to runoff from Mount Elden. The report is stored in the Stormwater Section and was also provided to the Coconino County Public Works Department.

This year the Stormwater Section commissioned a report from JE Fuller on predicting future flood risk conditions in the Museum Fire watershed (Spruce Wash). The nearby Radio Fire (1977) on Mount Elden was used as a comparison disturbed watershed for determining the watershed recovery trajectory. Forensic hydrology of the Radio Fire burn scar using pre-fire vegetation, soil condition, and rainfall annual exceedance probabilities came to the conclusion that the current Mount Elden watersheds are still experiencing two to three times (2 -3x) higher flows and floods than before the 1977 fire. This study is attached to this staff agenda item for your review.

In summary, the city is now required to provide an annual flood risk notice to areas of Shadow Mountain and Swiss Manor that are not currently mapped as FEMA floodplains and have not experienced a wildfire in the last decade. The flood risk in this area has been determined to be very real by separate studies, models, and reports (available at the Stormwater Section).

The first quarter Water Services update is also appended hereto and will be highlighted during the Council Work Session.

Meetings & Events

The CJCC Executive Committee Meeting occurred on Wednesday, April 18th.

We are spending significant time preparing for next week's Budget Retreat, to be held at Core Services on Thursday the 25th and Friday the 26th.

Guest lecture on April 16th to Political Science class, discussing public policy and providing some real-time examples. Very well received.

The Alliance meeting will be occurring on Friday, April 19th.

The service for Paul Babbitt Jr. was held in City Hall on Sunday, was well attended, and well conducted. It was a touching event, and many thanks are extended to all of staff who were involved, and the elected official who attended. Mayor Daggett did speak at the event.

Pictures to follow.



With that, Council, this report is concluded. Again, some updates are attached for your review. Thank you.