City Administrators Report

April 1, 2013

2013 Projects

Now that the weather is turning towards spring, we have generated a rather large list of projects to do this year. One of the biggest projects will be replacing six blocks of street in the down town area. Riverfront Park will be another project that will include the placing of a new bathroom and street lighting. The CTEP Sidewalk project on Louisiana Ave. will begin as soon as the bid is let out and a contractor selected. There will also be more work from city crews at the Flower Creek Dam site.

Street Projects

This year we have prioritized six down town blocks for complete street replacement. This, of course, will depend on funding. I am working out the details on these streets and should have a complete cost estimate by next week.

The six blocks to be replaced are:

1. 6th Street, between Mineral Ave, and California.
2. 4th Street, between Main and California.
3. 4th Street, between California and Mineral Ave.
4. 4th Street, between Montana and Louisiana Ave.
5. Lincoln Boulevard, between Mineral Ave and Montana.
6. Main Street, between 5th and 6th Street.

The plan would also include replacing the water mains in the streets that are to be repaired. This would include the pipe, valves, and new service connections to the property line with a meter pit. We know that these mains are in need of repair so with the street dug up it would be the time to replace the mains.

Depending on the base material that we encounter, the plan will be to remove between 18 and 24 inches of material, lay down filter fabric, cover with pit run material, compact then bring in ¾ inch gravel for the final base course for the asphalt. The asphalt would be a 3 inch mat like was laid on 5th street near the court house.

I have most of the water information in place and will have the asphalt, gravel and paving cost put together sometime next week. I am still waiting on prices from asphalt companies, paving contractors and final number on the geo fabric.

Again this is a lot of work and it depends on funding. Each street will have a cost and once I have all the figures put together, we can scale back on funding the whole project, if the cost are too high.

Riverfront Park

This year’s plan is to install a new flush style bathroom and street lighting at the park. The bathroom will be constructed of concrete from a company out of Spokane Washington, called CXT. The company makes a large variety of items out of concrete, most notable are railroad ties.

Once all the details are worked out on the colors and fixtures and the order placed, city crews will begin working on sewer, water and power to the facility. CXT will deliver the bathroom and have a crane to set it into position for the utilities hookups. The bathroom will be placed near the sidewalk leading to the pavilion. Once the bathroom is in place, a cement apron will be installed for handicap accessibility.

The street light project will also be done this year. Crews will trench where the power will be ran and lay in the conduit. Forms will be placed at the location of each light and rebar placed inside each form. Once the forms are filled with concrete, anchor bolts for the lights will be placed in the concrete while it is still wet.

Once the forms dry the poles will be anchored and the arms and lights attached. An electrician will be hired to run all the wires and hook up the power.

Construction Pad

Another project that will have to be completed early this summer is the construction pad or staging area at Flower Creek Dam. Last year when the road was built all the material that was hauled out, was placed beside the new road to the dam. This material consisted mainly of clay and is not suitable for a base to park equipment and construction materials on.

The area has been leveled out and has turned into a quagmire over the winter. City crews will be screening smaller material out of our pit and hauling to the site to be placed for a firm base. Once the material is compacted this should make a good location for the contractors to park equipment and construction materials for the rebuilding of Flower Creek Dam.

CTEP Project

The final bid documents have been sent in and approved for the sidewalk replacement on Louisiana Ave and curb replacement on Lincoln Boulevard. Letters have been sent out to all the property owners where the project will take place. The bids will be out soon and then a contractor will be selected to do the project.

City crews will remove and dispose of the old sidewalk and curbing and bring in base materials. Also dirt will be placed along the sidewalks and seeded. This will be the “soft” matching part of the project that the city will be involved with as part of the grant requirements.

Around the City

With the recent nice weather the city street crews have been out patching pot holes and street sweeping. They have also been moving gravel from the pit to make room for more crushing to be done. They also had a lot of screened material, which we use for road base, that had to be relocated to the upper portion of the pit. Corky is planning on changing the road that runs from the lower section to the upper section of the pit. This will make it safer for the trucks entering and leaving the pit area. Also, it will give us more material to crush and screen for future projects.

 With the sunny days and warmer temps comes the start of spring runoff. For the past two weeks the water treatment plant has be seeing increases in the turbidity in the raw water.

This has been a problem again for the operators as they are still having issues with the valves and chemical feed at the plant. The operators are hoping to change out the filters but with the high turbidity numbers, they have not had a chance to do this. Changing the charcoal has been needed for a while and should help relieve some the turbidity problems in the clarifiers.

The new heating system is up and running in the old city hall. Flathead Electric changed out the pole and transformers and Strom Electric finished up their last part to get it operational. The Police department has commented that it seems to be working really well.

Jim Hammons