City Administrators Report

September 3, 2013

Water Distribution Upgrades

The water upgrades are moving along fairly well. To date there are 44 meter pits installed at various stages. 27 are completed, 12 are ready for top soil and seed, 3 have been skipped and will be revisited, 2 were unable to locate. Once all the meters are in, the radio read device will be installed and activated.

There was an issue with the meter pit lids that are being installed in traffic areas like driveway. The lids were traffic rated to handle heavy use but the pits themselves were not. A special bracket has to be installed on these pits to be able to with-stand the weight of vehicle traffic.

A major water shut down took place on Wednesday night August 28. This shut down was done at night to less impact residents and businesses during the day. The shutdown took over 6 hours. There were 11 valves that had to be turned off to do the tie-ins to the new main lines. The city had 2 crew members from the water distribution department help assist with the shut down.

CTEP Project

A preconstruction meeting was held on August 26, 2013 to begin the CTEP sidewalk and curb project. Sandon Construction out of Kalispell received the contract. After going through the state requirement for the project the discussion turned to a start date and area to begin. A plan was put together to minimize the impact on the Nordicfest celebration.

Sandon plans on starting on Lincoln Boulevard first and then moving on to the sidewalks down Louisiana. The area that was chosen for a starting point was the block between Mineral Ave and Louisiana. Sandon thought this would be the best place to start as the feel they can finish this section before the Nordicfest celebration.

City crews began removing the curb on Tuesday the 27th of August. One of the big issues is that the sprinkler system in the boulevard will have to be taken out and replaced. Corky installed the system years ago and the heads are old and in bad shape. The project is scheduled for 45 calendar days for completion.

Mahoney Road Extension

At the July 15th City Council Meeting Kris Hekburg spoke to the Council regarding Mahoney Road having an issue with dust and potholes. The dust issue is the most serious due to many of the residents living in the area have breathing problems.

There were many different ideas and suggestions brought up on how to best deal with the problem. In the past the road had been covered with milling (ground up asphalt), had a coat of chip seal and had been sprayed with Mag Chloride (dust control) many times.

We talked about zipping the street, then compacting and chip sealing it again. The county is not doing any chipping this year and without their help this could not happen this year. Using the grader, leveling up the potholes and spraying Mag Chloride again would just be another temporary fix to an ongoing problem

I spoke with Marc McCully from the county and asked if they would have time to pave this section. He said they could pave it when they finish their projects. On Tuesday August 27, the county paved the street. This was the best long term solution and with LHC using our gravel for the mix, the most economical. The total cost is less than $6,000.

Departments

August has been a busy month for all departments. With the beginning of the water distribution project, everyone one was effected in some form or another. The girls in the office were busy answering phone calls on water shut offs and street closures.

The water treatment plant employees have been working with the engineers and contractors on solutions to best treat the water once the grouting of the lower reservoir begins. They are looking into using the old chlorine station as a temporary location to inject chemicals into the raw water line. This has to be done upstream from the plant to give the chemicals time to react before the water reaches the plant. Then the chemicals in the plants filters and clarifiers can better treat the water.

Waste water and water distribution crews have been working with the contractor on locates and other issues that arise. Locating curb stops and valves has been a real challenge. They work late into the night on the Wednesday the 28th of August to help assist the contractor with a large shut down.

Jim Hammons