

Letter From the Mayor:

December 6, 2023

Howdy Neighbors,

We hope many of you join us in the conversation about Middlebrook Mainstreet, the first new block south for the Agrihood, as it comes before Planning & Zoning on December 19. On our website and Facebook next week will be the preliminary plat. P & Z will discuss and vote on this and send it to our city council. This plat contains parking for the southside business district. It also includes parking to enhance the trailhead parking and be supplemental parking for the existing businesses on the north side. The existing S 44th Place after the parking will remain gravel for the foreseeable future and will develop in phases as needed. Please review the plan and submit comments to city hall before P & Z or the council. You can also join live at city hall or on Zoom.

Monday, December 11 at 5:30 PM we will have our normal council meeting followed by a work session to discuss the upcoming budget. We will review all of our line item expenses, debt and TIF. Even though we do not have a "city" fire department or law enforcement, it is a large part of our budget as we contract. Each category will be dissected, if you would like to see how our city focuses on keeping costs low, this would be a good time to learn about how your city uses TIF to better our community and how it works.

The three incumbent city council members were reelected. I know they appreciate your support and all of us welcome comments and feedback. The hotel/motel tax passed too. We do not have one coming to town but we want to be prepared.

The widening of the road from 50th St. to the interstate remains challenging. We have a lot going on around this intersection. The Hy-Vee distribution and Fast n' Fresh, opening late March, on the northside. Casey's and Wilson orchard on the south. Please be patient, respect the workers and the traffic devices. We monitor constantly to try and keep disruption to a minimum.

We had a state auditor review our finances starting in June with an onsite visit. The audit has continued with more questions and research. This is a normal audit as the state fell way behind during COVID. We hope to have an early review of this audit by the end of the year. We will share our results.

We have had a mild fall and early winter so far but we know what is coming. Please move vehicles off the road before a snow event. We contract with a local company and we want to help them with clean streets to work with.

We will have a meeting with the Old Town Residents invited to discuss our sewer/road project coming to this area. Tied into this meeting we would like to open up the meeting to all residents

to share what is going on and take questions. Please be watching for this to stay informed in our community.

We are looking for volunteers to help our city succeed. The Planning & Zoning Commission needs one member. Our Park & Recreation is looking for volunteers too. Please call me, Rita or Nichole to ask questions.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Brent

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