



CITY OF TROY FALL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

Summer did not linger with sunshine laced with clouds and mild winds. Fall came at us with brisk days, crunching leaves, and the smell of wood smoke in the air. The hot days of summer have been replaced by cold, clear starry nights, and the race to get all the outside work done before the snow falls.

The first phase of the water project is drawing to a close. A few items are still pending, and hopefully, will be completed soon, like the milling and fill of some of the asphalt replacement areas. We need this completed as next year, late spring, chip sealing will be done on a few main streets. This will be done by the city with help from the county.

The streets are a major concern and finding the funding for a major upgrading will be started with the next legislative year. Street maintenance has been funded for decades by a 14 cent assessment on the lineal feet of your property that is next to a city street. This means \$14.00 per 100 feet. A hearing was held and a resolution was passed to change the rate to 20 cents per lineal foot or \$20.00 per 100 feet, resulting in a 6 cent increase per foot. A load of oil costs over \$14,000 these days, and will cover one street, full length. The amount funded by the assessment was \$7,470.90 annually and will now be \$10,665.11 with the new rate.

We are waiting now for the telemetry on the water tank to be completed so it can go "on-line" in tandem with the other water tank. The new submersible pump that replaced the old one works great, and can pump over 900 gallons per minute if needed.

The computer system that will relay water usage still needs numbers entered from each meter. You may have noticed the city crews in teams of two getting this information down. Itron and Black Mountain are working on assigning the proper sequence of numbers in the software so that the computer and the handheld unit will communicate correct information. Once this is accomplished your statement should show the amount of water going through your meter.

The City did get a planning grant for Phase II of the water project for preliminary engineering and design. This phase will be funded by grants only, and depending on the amount of grants received in a year, it may have to go into a longer range plan for completion.

The preliminary Engineering Report has been completed and approved for the sewer project. This project is for a UV disinfection building that will process all water leaving the lagoons and entering the Kootenai River. Even though our outfall into the Kootenai has never had any problem with the quality of water, stricter measures have been adopted by DEQ for all river outfall and sewer treatment facilities. With this grant a UV treatment building will be erected that will comply with all hazardous elements that may occur, treat and monitor all sewage that enters the lagoons. It is expected that construction will begin in February or March 2008. We are waiting for the documentation of this approval before sending out the bid papers in December of this year. This project must be completed by August 2008. The City has \$574,620.13 in grant money to complete this project.

The City has begun the process to put together grants to complete housing for low to moderate income individuals and families. These housing units can be single family or multi-family units. Through subsidies down payments can be made to purchase the homes, and grants gotten to lower the selling price. More information is needed before anything is known for certain. There will be a committee established to sort through all

The City does understand that change and growth is an upsetting and inconvenient process, however, by planning now and upgrading infrastructure that so sorely needs to be done, we could find ourselves in a much better shape than other cities and towns when energy rates escalate. This is not just for our immediate future but for those that will come after.

A few new homes have sprouted up and some remodeling of existing properties. There have been questions about set-backs of property lines and right-of-ways. Please come into City Hall for any construction projects. The public works departments can then check your plot plan and advise you of any set-backs, sewer, water, and power questions. And as always – call before you dig.

The City is considering making the property by Morrison Elementary available to the school for the new activity center through a land trade. Additional comments and review of the proposal to trade the school for property behind the high school needs to take place. The proposal does have merit for both sides, and all items will be well thought-out.

An engineered architectural rendering of the wildlife interactive museum that the City has long considered, is to be completed along with plans and permits. We anticipate that ground work will be done and concrete poured for the foundation next year. This museum will house wildlife mounts, birds and fish; some shown in their natural habitat. Donations have been received to begin this process. Any donation you may want to give to further this endeavor is most appreciated. We will also begin applying for grants from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and Trout Unlimited.

Troy's Christmas tree lighting will be on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 6:00 pm, at 2nd and Kootenai Avenue. Santa Claus will be riding into Troy right afterwards to greet the girls and boys. Coffee, hot chocolate and cookies will be on hand to keep you warm. Come join us for this fun event.

Sincerely,

Jim Hammons
Mayor, City of Troy