



CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS

Inside Idaho Springs

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2016

Mayor's Message

Happy New Year !

Let's welcome in 2016 with a bang. It was a great 2015 and we have positive momentum going for the changes that are coming for Idaho Springs.

With the I-70 construction coming to an end and Colorado Blvd. Phase II getting started in the coming months, I'm hoping everyone will be patient with us as this project unfolds. We are still working through some concepts and concerns for Phase III and we plan to start construction on it before the end of the year.

We continue to acquire property for a downtown parking structure. More details will be given as we get closer.

If you haven't met our new Police Chief, Chris Malanka, and our new City Administrator, Andy Marsh, make sure you go by City Hall and do so. They were selected by Council and they are a huge asset to our community as we move forward.

We have a wonderful community and I look forward to working on things to continue to make Idaho Springs a place where everyone enjoys living.

It is a honor to be your Mayor and I will continue to be open and transparent. Contact me anytime with your concerns.

www.colorado.gov/idahosprings

The City's new website is up and running. The new design makes it easier to find what you're looking for and has lots of helpful information. New information will be added as needed and you'll see an opportunity on nearly every page to submit a comment.

Through the Colorado Internet Portal Authority, the City was able to get an entirely new website *at no cost*, saving several thousand dollars in development fees. The only requirement was that "colorado.gov" had to be part of the web address. If you type in the old web address, or perhaps have it saved in your address book, you will be immediately redirected to the new site. City email addresses are unchanged.

New Council Members sworn in, getting down to business

Less than a week after the November election, successful candidates were sworn in and they're already hard at work. The Council has adopted the 2016 budget (see details on page 4), taken care of the usual year-end business and are now looking forward to a busy new year.

All this is very exciting, especially for the newest Council member, Tracy Stokes, from Ward I. Like most new Council members, Tracy says she is still a bit overwhelmed, but promises to work hard to get up to speed so she can fairly represent the voters in her ward.

John Curtis from Ward II, and Jason Siegel from Ward III, were elected to retain their seats and are looking forward to the work ahead.

In the coming months, the Council will, among other things, consider ways to increase the amount of public parking available in town. After 5 years, the Council will also be considering changes in water and sewer rates. Planning continues for Phase 3 on Colorado Blvd., and Council will give the official nod to the final design. Changes to parts of the Municipal Code are being considered that will eventually come before Council for final approval.

A grant has been received from the Department of Local Affairs to look at potential new development on the east end to compliment the Colorado Blvd. transformation. Along with the Planning Commission, City Council will consider and ultimately approve the findings, possibly as a revision to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

It's going to be a busy year for the Council members. They have a lot on their plates.

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Colorado Boulevard news

The contract for Phase 2 of the Colorado Blvd Reconstruction Project was officially awarded at the City Council meeting on December 14 to American Civil Constructors of Littleton for \$7.7 million.

Phase 2 runs from 7th Avenue to Riverside Drive and will include new pavement and underground utility lines, drainage improvements, street lights, sidewalks and retaining walls where necessary. Work is expected to begin in March, weather permitting, and be completed by June 2017.

Meanwhile, planning for Phase 3 - from Riverside Drive east to the on ramp at Exit 241 - continues. With good public input at the September and December open house events and the continuing hard work of the steering committee, the final proposed plans will soon be ready for one last public meeting. Phase 3 is expected to go to bid later this year with work to be completed by the end of 2017.

Among all the information provided on the City's website (see story on page 1), you can follow the Colorado Blvd Reconstruction project on the website. On the home page, click on the Colorado Blvd Reconstruction Program drop-down menu. Once Phase 2 gets underway, you can follow the project through construction updates.

For Phase 3, you will find the latest design concepts for the alignment of Colorado Boulevard, intersection improvements, parking, private and business property accesses, public space improvements, as well as answers to many of your frequently asked questions on the website.

The City is moving forward with design concepts that involve adding parking and designated access points along Colorado Boulevard. Shifting Colorado to the south and increasing the size of Courtney Ryley Cooper Park are also design concepts that are being explored in more detail. Final decisions will be made in the coming months.

Andy Marsh, City Administrator

Greetings from your new City Administrator! The snow is falling, and our historic downtown is particularly beautiful adorned with the Tivoli lights and holiday decorations. I am honored and privileged to be a part of this vibrant community and to be able to work with the Mayor, City Council and Staff on behalf of the citizens.

My first two months have been a whirlwind of activity as I am learning about the operations of our City government while attending meetings and meeting people in Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County and beyond. I would like to extend a special thanks to Phyllis Adams who served as our Interim City Administrator for more than a year and assisted me with a smooth transition. One of the first orders of business was finalizing the 2016 City Budget for adoption by City Council. The Budget is now posted on our new City website at www.colorado.gov/idahosprings. The platform for our new website is provided without charge through an agreement with the State Internet Portal Authority and is maintained in-house with the talents of our Court Clerk, Katherine Cook.

One of the biggest projects currently for our City is the Colorado Boulevard Reconstruction Program. I am coordinating with our contractors and attending various activities related to the public involvement process, which includes a steering committee, public meetings, and small group gatherings with stakeholders. While planning continues for the reconstruction of Colorado Boulevard through the east end of our City, actual construction related to rebuilding Colorado Boulevard through the middle of our City is expected to begin within the next several months.

Another project included in the 2016 Budget is funding for the engineering and design related to the reconstruction of Miner Street between Clear Creek and the Visitor Center. Also included in the budget are three new positions: a Police Officer, a Maintenance Worker for our streets, and an Operator for our water and wastewater treatment facilities. Planning is continuing for a greenway through our City and for adding additional parking adjacent to the historic district.

These are exciting times for our City with various projects underway and redevelopment plans in the works. In the midst of all this activity, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to volunteer at Carlson Elementary School through Junior Achievement by teaching sessions on "Our Community" to the second grade classes. Mayor Hillman joined me at the most recent session on Making Decisions and Voting. Even before I started work, I was pleased to be invited to the 21st annual Legacy Ball of the Historical Society of Idaho Springs. My 40 year-old tuxedo still fits!

I am excited about the prospects for our City as we begin 2016. Be sure to check out our new website, and I look forward to ongoing communication as we strive to preserve our heritage while building our future.



What is the Municipal Code?

The Municipal Code is an organized collection of ordinances passed by the City Council. It makes up the local laws and regulations for Idaho Springs.

How does the Council decide if an ordinance is needed?

Sometimes the Council wants to take an action that State law requires be done by ordinance. Something new may have come up, such as when marijuana sales became legal. Most often, an ordinance is required to amend a previous ordinance in the Municipal Code. Suggestions come from the public, from staff, from the City's attorney or from the Council members. Ideas are usually discussed in a work session, sometimes at more than one, and details are talked over. Once the Council Members have agreed, the ordinance is prepared and presented for approval at a regular Council meeting.

What happens then?

State statutes control the process. The ordinance has to have what's called first reading, be approved by vote of Council, then be published in full in the newspaper. At least 10 days after publication, the ordinance has its second reading at a Council meeting, is again approved by Council and is published a second time, but this time only its title is published. 30 days later the ordinance takes effect and becomes law. The process takes about 90 days from first reading to effective date.

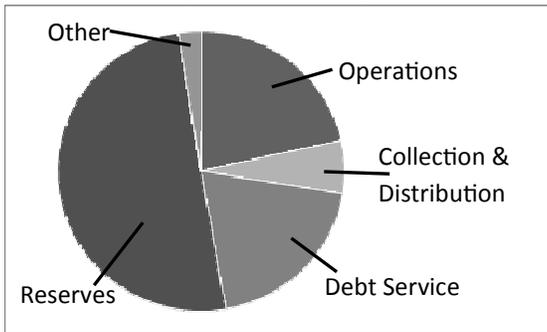
Budget Highlights

The 2016 budget, a 70-page document, has been adopted and is now in place. The City is expecting another year of controlled spending and slightly increasing revenues. Combined revenues are anticipated to total just under \$8.5 million. Sales Tax, the single largest revenue source for the General Fund, is expected to bring in \$1,970,000. That number includes \$985,000 for the General Fund, \$492,500 for street projects (voter approved, thank you) and the same amount for other Capital Projects.

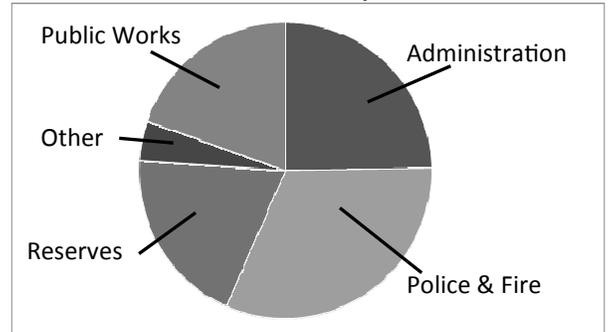
Continuing the City's established policy of holding a portion of its revenue back for a rainy day, 30% of the combined funds in the 2016 budget are Reserves.

The graphs below will give you some idea of how the budget is allocated.

Water/Sewer Fund Expenses



General Fund Expenses



The money for the Colorado Blvd. project, over \$20 million, was recorded as 2015 revenue. Planned expenditures for 2016 are in the budget but are not included here since it would dwarf the rest of the budget.



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