

SEWER PROJECTS BEGINNING ENGINEERING PHASES

The City has already contracted with Orr Construction to upgrade a line from Hudson Heights to the WWTP inlet facility and that project will be kicking off soon. In addition to that work, several other projects are in the works.

Staff met with representatives of McClellan Engineers on January 29th, to discuss projects related to sewer rehab and capacity upgrades. Projects discussed include, upsizing a sewer line from Hudson Heights to the Industrial Park Road with an upsized 21" sewer main line, and a new force main along Industrial Park Road that will redirect flow from the Prairie Meadows Subdivision to that 21" line. This project will relieve flow from an existing 12" line allowing it more capacity to handle additional future flows from the South side of Prairie Grove.

In addition, a project to add capacity on the south side of town, will construct a new 10" or 12" line along Butler Street (Rieff Park) and possibly an upgraded force main along south Mock that would deliver waste from the new S. Mock Pump station, to that new line directly. These projects will relieve pressure on existing 8" lines along Mock Street, and an existing 10" line on Thurman Street.

The city will utilize the remaining 2021 bond funds and remaining American Rescue Plan funds to construct the projects. The city has until December 31's to have the work utilizing ARPA funds under contract. The 2021 bond funds should be mostly expended by this summer.

The City is expected to have roughly \$2.5 million for these projects.



Left: Prairie Meadows Pump Station

Top: Location of new Line along Industrial Park Road.

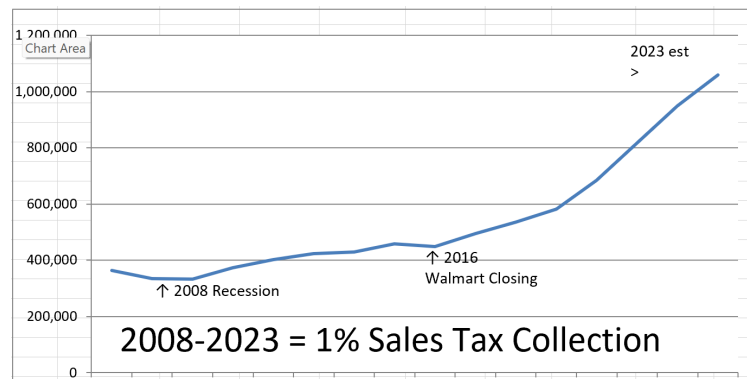
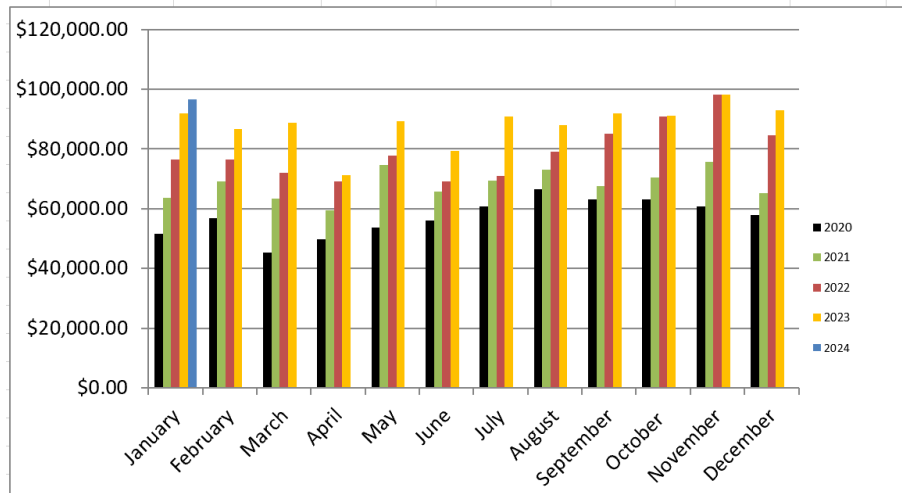
Bottom Right: Location of new 24" line from Hudson Heights to Treatment Facility.

SALES TAX SEES MODERATE INCREASE IN JANUARY

Sales Tax in January, was up 5% over January of 2023 and totaled \$265,628.94 for the month.

For 1%, the tax hit \$96,592.31 up from \$91,965 last year.

In 2023, 1% local sales tax generated just over \$1,059,700 which amounted to over \$2.9 million in total sales tax collections. Of that amount, approximately \$530,000 went toward police and fire salaries, \$265,000 for Parks and Libraries, \$265,000 in general revenue used to purchase police cars and other municipal capital assets, and \$1.85 million toward bond payments.



DOWNTOWN PROJECT UPDATE

The downtown improvement project continues progress with the installation of nearly 1500' of 72" and 66" drainage pipes and boxes. The work has not been without problems, including traffic issues, and conflicts with other infrastructure. An old water line in Buchanan Street which still serviced two buildings was damaged and before it could be capped off was damaged again and emergency repairs were needed. Pipes of this size are exceptionally difficult to locate and install around other utilities just because they are so big.

Water line replacements are com-

pleted from Pittman to Neal and the contractor is close to starting on the next sections of water line from Neal to Mock. The drive lanes will be moved over to the south while the line is located on the North side of Buchanan in downtown, and all parking will be closed along the street until the new line is in.

The drainage work will include improvements to one block of Kate Smith and will also continue east to Mock in this phase of the project. The water line improvements also include work on Kate Smith and Mock Street.



BUILDING UPDATE

Only 5 permits for new residential construction were issued in January, with 4 of those in Wagon Springs and 1 in Snyder Grove. The single family homes ranged from 1987 square feet up to 2563 square feet.

In addition to the 5 single family permits, there was one swimming pool permitted as well.



Construction continues along Emerald Street in the Hudson Heights Addition, where D.R. Horton Homes has nearly filled every lot already.

VINEY GROVE PROGRESS REPORT

Sweetser Construction has had a slow time recently as snow, rain, ice and extreme cold has slowed that progress of the Viney Grove Road extension project.

Sweetser is currently working on the Buchanan and Viney Grove/Blunt Street intersection,

which will be widened with turn lanes once the project is completed. They are also forming drain boxes and installing drainage pipe along the roadway.

Sweetser still anticipates completion by the end of April on this project.



PROPOSED POLICE EXPANSION TO BE FUNDED WITH LOAN AND RESERVES

The plans for the proposed police expansion are coming along and its about time for the City to be looking at short term financing for the project. The plan is to borrow part of the money and utilize reserve funds to cover the cost of the rest of the project.

State laws prohibit the city from any long term borrowing beyond 5 years without going to a general referendum, so borrowing has to be limited to what the City can afford to pay in short term, 5 year loans.

The 2024 budget includes

general reserve funds up to \$500,000 being used as well as loan payments from the sales tax fund to borrow an additional \$700,000.

The project is expected to be bid by late spring and underway by summer.

Employee milestone anniversaries 2024

- Larry Oelrich; 45 years
- Brian Hawkins (water) 25 years
- Jason Arnold (water) 10 years
- Justin Flumm (water) 10 years
- Rachel Guenther (court) 5 years
- Cody Templeton (water) 5 years
- Mark Cluck (police) 5 years
- Justin Capps (fire) 5 years
- Blake Wood (fire) 5 years.
- Jacob Kahl (fire) 5 years

WWTP EXPANSION WINDING DOWN

The WWTP expansion is still making progress and the UV (ultraviolet) expansion is now online and in use. The chemical feeders are in, and all but a little of the concrete work is finished.

The contractor may be facing delays however as some key equipment still has not been received in-



cluding electrical components. They still must clean out the sludge in the existing bio units #1 and #2 before #3 can be put on line. There is

some discussion about starting some of the clean up and site restoration before everything is done, simply to give crews on site something to do if the delays

look like they will hold up completion. This isn't optimal as any work done after that could create the need to do work over once its been re-stored.

Local Chamber of Commerce Planning for 2024 year.

The chamber of commerce and the City has a long history of partnership and cooperation. The local Chamber has met to discuss plans for the upcoming year including the usual events such as the Parade and Cocoa Crawl. The chamber is discussing bringing back the bowling tournament this year, to be held next month and utilizing money raised to upgrade and replace the old Christmas Decorations downtown.

Other Chamber projects and events include bringing back the annual banquet and citizen and business awards, likely in April, and possibly hosting a June Chamber cookout.

The Chamber will also be bringing back its monthly business of the month in coming months for chamber members.



Left: the new UV Channel serpentine weir installation

Top: The new UV control panel

Bottom, the new UV equipment and light installation

