

FYI



CITY HOLDS ANRC HEARING ON THE STATE WATER PLAN COMPLIANCE

On April 12th, the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission held a public hearing, in the Prairie Grove District Court Room for the modification of State Water Plan Compliance to amend the plan for the expansion of the Wastewater

Treatment Plant. The requirement for the WPC hearing was triggered by the City receiving \$4.5 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Funds.

The Plan offers other State Utilities and stakeholders the opportunity to comment

about expansion projects. Normally projects that trigger 50% or more growth require State Compliance Review. No comments were received at the hearing and it concluded within a few minutes.

WWTP CONTINUES PROGRESS

Progress on the WWTP continues with most of the work focused on the new Biologic Unit #3.

The contractor, Cross-

land Heavy, has also started on the foundation, piping, and connecting power and utility lines to the new chemi-

cal building located near the inlet facility.

Work on the upgrades to the electrical building, new UV equipment installation, new solids

screening equipment, and new inlet screw pump have not started yet.

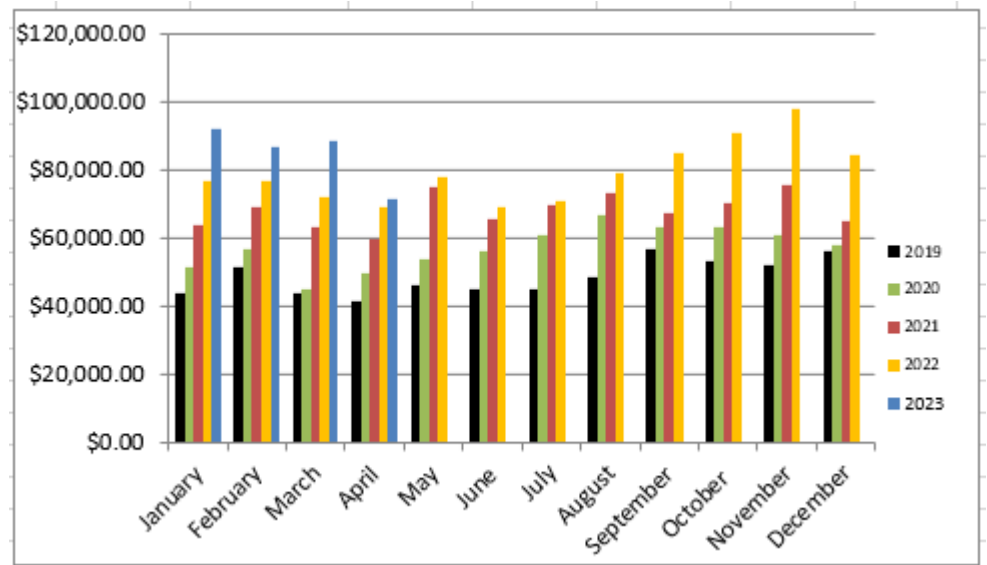
The floor of the #3 bio unit has been poured and steel reinforcement bars are currently being installed for the walls of the #3 unit and once that is completed forms will be set and concrete poured.



SALES TAX

April Sales Tax showed growth but only slightly over 2022 collections. For April, collections were 3% higher than last April, at \$71,280.59 per 1% collected. Total collections were \$196,021.62.

The collections were the lowest since July of last year, however year to date 2023 is still running 15% ahead of the 2022 pace through the first four months. .



PROJECT UPDATES

The City has a multitude of projects underway this year.

The water line work on phase 1 is coming to a close and the Privcon is currently finishing clean up and paving on the utility cuts. The City is currently finalizing plans to move forward with phase 2 which includes work on Buchanan, N. Mock, and Kate Smith Streets.

The restrooms in Muddy Fork

Park are well underway and should be completed by June. The new playground is scheduled for delivery next month.

The Downtown drainage and rehab project is working on acquiring the easements for phase 1 and has met with engineers this week to discuss the bidding process.

The Viney Grove Road extension has been awarded to Sweetser Construction and contract and bond docu-



ments are being finalized before a notice to proceed will be issued.

INPUT SOUGHT FOR MOCK PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Mayor Faulk recently applied for a Community Placemaking grant to enhance Mock Park. The City was notified this week that they did not receive the highly competitive grant.

Part of the process was to study potential uses within the park and a partnership with the Prairie Grove Engineering Class Students resulted in surveys being placed at various Businesses downtown as well as the Farmer's Market.



BUILDING UPDATE

For April, 21 new single family permits were issued. In addition, 3 residential additions were permitted, one remodel, and two shop buildings. Houses ranged from 1216 sq. feet to 1823 square feet.

Year to date, the valuation of all construction topped \$15,000,000.

Total new homes permitted year to date are at 56 single family homes, with a population equivalency of 134 new residents bringing current population estimates to 8199.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A number of developments are nearing approval and several others are currently in the pipeline.

Hudson Heights Ph 1 with 86 lots and, Waggon Springs phase 1 with 61 lots are currently near to completing and seeking final plat approval.

Wagnon Springs Phase 2 PUD has asked for changes in their preliminary approval to eliminate rear service entrances and that request goes to the planning commission this week.

Phase 5-8 of Snyder Grove is approved for construction and will be moving forward with that phase soon. This devel-

opment will include a connection to Highway 62 which will align Blunt with Viney Grove Road once that extension is completed.

Selah Meadows, a 157 lot subdivision on Butler Road is moving forward and has asked for approval of a preliminary plat. Parkwood Estates has concept plat approval, but has indicated they may not begin for at least a year. Other subdivisions such as the 500+ lot Copper Hill Development, which has received concept approval are moving forward with engineering.





City Offices Will Be Closed Monday May 29th in observance of Memorial Day. All trash and recycling routes for the day will be run on Tuesday May 30th.

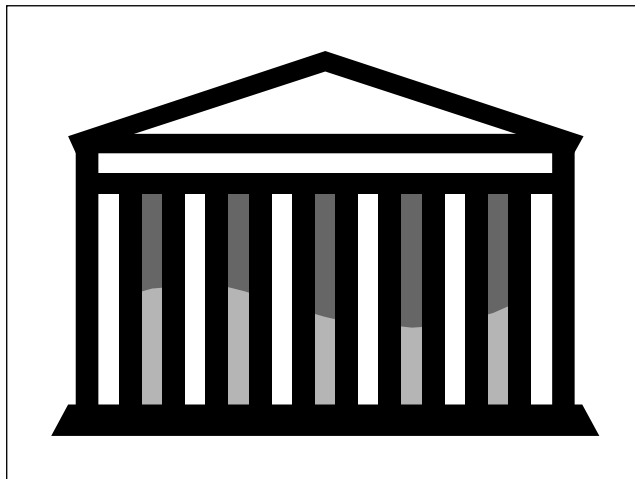
- *Olivia Jentzch has officially moved from animal control to the police department and is currently attending the police academy.*
- *Anthony Johnson was hired as the new animal control officer. Johnson has many years experience as a certified law enforcement officer with Washington County and will be able to provide the police department additional back up as needed in addition to his animal control duties.*
- *The 2022 State Audit began in late March and is currently ongoing. Currently two state auditors are working at City Hall.*
- *The water treatment plant has expanded staffing and is now treating an additional half shift per day Monday through Friday. The additional treatment hours has allowed the City to treat more water than it purchased which is financially important as the Benton/Washington Regional Water Authority continues to increase their rate for wholesale water.*

LEGISLATIVE 2023 UPDATE

The 2023 Arkansas Legislative Session ended a few weeks ago, with few new laws that seriously affect Cities.

Among the new laws:

- ACT 497 places requirements on Cities to fast track commercial and industrial permits. Once they are applied for Cities will have 60 days to process them or they are automatically approved.
- ACT 504 creates requirements for technology resource and security policies as well as requires employee training
- ACT 551 Prohibits Cities from adopting laws prohibiting the citing of underground gas storage facilities within their jurisdictions.
- ACT 730 Prohibits cities from adopting laws that ban or restrict pet sales from animal kennels, catteries, or breeders.
- ACT 522 Allows owners of pets that have bitten individuals the right to retain and personally



The 2023 Legislative Session has concluded!

- ACT 671 allows for dry areas that are annexed into wet areas to automatically have all of the rights to alcohol sales and consumption that the wet area annexing them has.

- ACT 699 Allows Cities and Counties to establish their jurisdictions as "Pro Life Cities" or "Pro Life Counties".

- ACT 707 Approves the use of automated speed enforcement devices.

- ACT 884 Allows

any commercial development that spans two city or county jurisdictions to choose with jurisdictions regulations they want to abide by.

- observe the animal if the animal has had all the required rabies vaccinations.
- ACT 590 prohibits cities from regulating the scalping of tickets to events.

- ACT 650 increases the tax credits for historic rehabilitation from 25% of the cost to 30-40% of the cost.