



Mayor's Minute



It is nice to see beautiful sunshine and the grass again after a cold, snowy winter. Our DPW did a great job with keeping roads cleared, fire hydrants open and cleared corners of piled snow. They came in to work many times at 5 a.m., so that streets would be cleared in time for residents to go to work. Thank you for your cooperation in not parking on streets overnight during those long winter months to enable plowing to take place with minimal interferences. As we look forward to summer and warmer weather, it is hoped we can get a couple of projects completed.

As always, you are welcome at council meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Feel free to contact me at City Hall with your questions or concerns or e-mail me at bltasker@cmsinter.net.

Police Department News

Congratulations to Officer Jason Pattok on his appointment to Interim Police Chief of Carson City. Jason has been on our force for 2 years. Prior to that, he was an MP with the military. He replaces Chief Bruce Partridge, who decided to retire. Thanks to Chief Partridge for your service to the city and we look forward to working with Chief Pattok.

We welcome Police Officer Phil Andres to our police force. As you know, we have gone to a department where everyone is classified as part-time. Due to the concept, we do not offer any benefits or retirement options. As some of our officers gain experience, they look for full-time positions with benefits and as opportunities become available they move to different departments. We knew this would happen when we decided to go in this direction and have adjusted to this solution. We are currently able to provide between 18-20 hours of police coverage per day with this arrangement.

Some questions have been asked as to why the city's police car is in the township. The Police Department has an agreement with the correctional facility to make a drive by and a drive around the prison. This is done at least once a shift and many times twice a shift. The PD also checks the sewer lagoons on Garlock Road and the water well on Condensery Road to make sure there is no suspicious activity occurring, which is also done at least once a shift. This is a recommendation from Homeland Security. In a mutual aid agreement, central dispatch may ask the city to respond as back-up to county or state police in dangerous situations. We are very seldom the first responder in the townships. They also respond as back-up to our department in dangerous situations.

Ordinances

Over the winter, we have written and simplified three ordinances. Ordinance 19 allows for dogs in the park on a leash. Ordinance 55 simplifies the nuisance ordinance (unmowed lawns, unlicensed vehicles, unnecessary trash, etc.). Ordinance 57 simplifies the rental housing situations and helps the rental inspector to do his inspection more efficiently. We now have approximately 100 rental houses in the city and we needed to clarify landlord and renter responsibilities.

Street Projects

Using our Act 51 money (money we receive from the state from gas tax and vehicle registration), we plan on completing a street project this summer. Areas to be repaired are:

- a) one block of Walnut Street between Division and First Streets. This will be a total reconstruction with drains placed along road edges to remove surface water.
 - b) one block of First Street between Carson and Pine Streets. This will also be a total reconstruction with catch basins and roadside drainage, along with sidewalk improvements.
- These two projects will begin mid-July and take approximately six weeks to complete.



Another project that may affect city residents is being done by the State Highway Department. The project will be to lay chip sealing on M-57 from the west end city limits to M-66. This project is scheduled for August 18 - September 12.

Frontier Days Festival

Thanks to the Frontier Days Committee for all their hard work in planning another successful family, fun-filled weekend. The Community Picnic, sponsored by Village Market, was well attended. I am still waiting for my “duck” to cross the finish line. Friday saw lots of yard sales and several sidewalk sales. There were many people in town doing their shopping. The hot air balloons were able to launch and display a magnificent array of colors. Saturday started with a hot air balloon competition, with balloons launching from West Park and near the trailer park on Garlock Road. An “X” was placed on the ground at the North softball field and the winning balloon pilot was able to toss his bean bag marker less than eight inches from the center of the “X.” Kids’ Health & Safety Day was again a huge success, with 150+ kids in attendance. The Car Show saw over 40 cars on display. Both of the parades were well attended, followed by shows from the Chainsaw Carver and the Kiddie Tractor Pull. Congratulations to Marie McAlvey and Diane Hoard for winning the Taste of Carson City Cookie Contest. The inflatable toys were a huge treat to kids who enjoyed the free opportunity. Evening saw the hot air balloons fly again, along with a glow. The perfect day was summed up by a fantastic fireworks show provided by The Laurels of Carson City. Again, a BIG THANKS for all of the sponsors that make the weekend possible ... because without them Frontier Days would not be a reality.

Now That’s Recycling!

As the company removes the old blacktop from Maple & First Streets in our street project, it will be ground into fine pieces, trucked to Grove Park. There it will be used to build a new walking trail around Grove Park. It will connect to the parking lot so area residents can walk around West Park, over the connector trail, through Grove Park, back through the connector trail and to Haradine Park. Enjoy!



Dont Forget! ...

Residents using trash carts are asked to please remove them from the roadside within 24 hours of the trash being dumped. Thanks for your cooperation as we work together to keep our city “spruced up.”



Other News

The weather alert siren will be tested by the county on the first Friday of every month at 11 a.m. from April to October. The county is now able to alert every municipality in the county, along with some rural areas, to threatening weather situations.



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The city is currently seeking 2 residents to fill positions on the Planning Commission and 1 resident to fill a position on the Board of Appeals. If you are interested, please contact City Hall at 989-584-3515 or e-mail the Mayor at bltasker@cmsinter.net.
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After 26 years on the department and 13 years as Fire Chief, Chief Dan Kipp has retired/resigned. The city thanks him for his service to the area residents. His expertise in fighting fires will be missed. Thanks and best of luck, Dan!
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The city has been awarded a \$610,000 grant (10% match from the city of \$61,000) from the State of Michigan for storm water and sanitary sewer assessment management. The grant is to be used to inspect, by camera, all storm water lines and sanitary sewer lines, along with all manholes and the lift station to determine the conditions of all the pipes. This information will be converted to digital program and GPS coordinates so that we will know exact locations and the condition of all underground lines in our infrastructure. This will allow us to be proactive in maintenance and repair projects. It is hoped that we can repair problem areas before they become “problems.” Former City Administrator Borden, along with Spicer Group Engineering, worked on this grant for over a year.
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In a mandate from the Federal Highway Administration, all traffic signs must meet retro-reflectivity requirements. All ground mounted traffic signs must have the high reflectivity by June of 2015. This summer and fall the DPW will be replacing all stop and yield signs in the city with high reflectivity stop signs. Please be aware of the new stop signs as they become installed.
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In our sidewalk improvement projects from last fall, in cooperation with home owners, we were able to install approximately 1,000 feet of new sidewalks throughout the city. It is hoped that we can add to that total this summer. If you are interested in improving the sidewalk at your residence, please contact the City Administrator at 989-584-3515 for details.