



# FYI

January 2024  
City of Prairie Grove AR

## 2023 Highlights

- The **WWTP** expansion was nearing completion at the end of 2023. The project which started in November of 2022 should be finished by March of 2024.
- The **Viney Grove Road Extension**, from Bush Street to Buchanan is **Nearing Completion** with the dirt work and bridge structure all being completed by year end.
- **Water Line** upgrades were completed on **S. Pittman, S. Neal, S. Mock Street** in 2023. Additional work began on Buchanan and will be completed in 2024.
- **Downtown Drainage Work** was underway in 2023 with the overall first phase expected to be completed in 2024.
- **Risley Architects** were contracted for the expansion of the **Police Department** offices, and plans were underway in 2023, with that construction expected to kick off in 2024.

## 2023—The Year in Review

2023 was a year of sustained growth. The City has shown good resiliency in meeting the demands of that growth.

Population which in 2020 was listed at 7045 is now estimated over 8400 at the end of 2023. Population will likely surpass 9000 by 2026 and 10,000 by 2029 if current housing trends continue.

168 new single family permits were issued in 2023, but for the second straight year, there were no multi-family permits of any kind issued. That will likely change in 2024 as two multi-family developments were approved in 2023. One apartment complex was approved on South Mock Street by Jerry Coyle and a duplex development on Cactus Jack Road by Matt Taylor.

In addition to the multi-family Large Scale approvals, other Developments were also approved in 2023 including the overall

preliminary plat for Copper Hill with over 500 lots. In addition, Selah Meadows was approved on Butler Road, the second phase of Wagon Springs, and phases 6-8 of Snyder Grove. Hudson Heights first phase was completed in 2023 as well as Wagon Springs first phase.

2023 was a busy year for ribbon cuttings, with new businesses opening including Birch and Bark, Butterflies and Caterpillars Day Care, Access Medical clinic, Legendary Fitness,

Casey's, Taco Bell, The Blue Bird, Realty Mart, 5R realty, Benchmark Equipment Rentals, All About



Therapy, and Crimson and Clover. In addition, Crecent Department Store reopened after a brief closing with new ownership.

With all the growth, the

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City continues to be very busy with construction projects. Water line upgrades and the sewer plant (WWTP) expansion. Privcon Construction started the water line replacements with work on S. Pittman, S. Neal, and S. Mock street in their contract. Brothers Construction recently took on the next phase of that work which will include work on Buchanan Street downtown, as well as a small section on N. Mock and Kate Smith Streets.

Water Sales for the year totaled, 161,730,954 gallons sold, a 3.54% increase over the 2022 totals. Total water produced and purchased how-

ever increased by 12% in 2023 at 248,865,000 gallons, as water lost again rose from 23% in 2022 to 26% in 2023. Water sales have increased an average of 4.6% per year over the last decade.

Tax revenue continued to increase in 2023 but large increases in assessed values required the City to roll back property taxes to meet the requirements of the State Constitution limiting property assessments from increasing more than 10% in a calendar year. County sales tax, City sales tax, and Property Tax were all up considerably for the year.

The Prairie Grove Aquatic Park saw record numbers in 2023. Season attendance was the highest on record with 23,687 regular admissions during the summer compared to the previous high of 20,573 in 2018. Revenue was the highest ever for the facility as well, with over \$88,000 in admissions, over \$20,000 in pool rental fees, over \$25,000 in season passes, over \$50,000 in concession sales, over \$7000 in swim lesson fees, and over \$4000 for water aerobics. Total revenue for the 10 week season was over \$195,000.

Other accomplishments included the completion of a new play ground and a new restroom facility in Muddy Fork Park. The Tennis Courts also received a much needed makeover this past year.

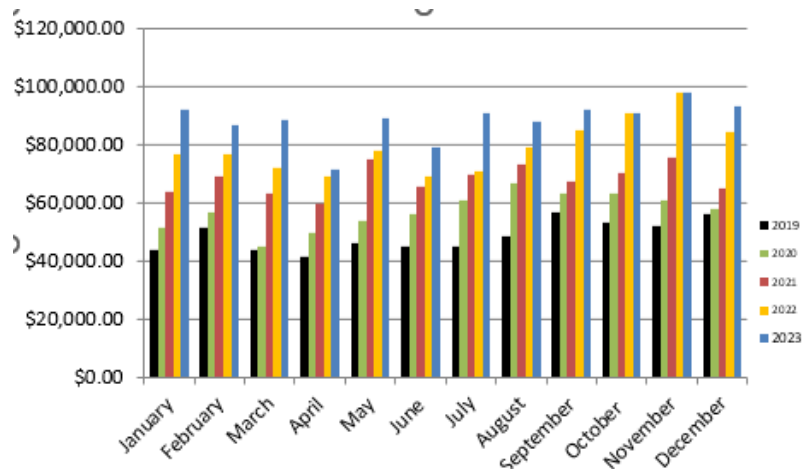
The City paved Picket Ridge Road and also agreed to take over Otter Road into the City street system and once the survey work, easements, and deeds were completed, widened and graveled this once private drive.



## Sales Tax Update

For December of 2023 sales tax was up 10% over December of 2022, but the overall % of increase year to date dropped for the year to 11.7% 2023 compared to 2022.

For 2023, 1% of sales tax generated 1.06 million compared to .949 million in 2022. Total collections of sales tax for the City were around 2.91 million based on a 2.75% sales tax rate.



## Building Update

17 new single family permits were issued in December, bring the year end total to 168 new single family homes in 2023.

This compares to 248 single family permits issued in 2022.

The 168 new homes has a population equivalency of approximately 420 people, pushing the City population projections to 8476 to start 2024.

In addition to the new permits, there was a storage building and a commercial addition permitted.



## Bids on Ditmar Road Sewer Expansion

Orr Construction was low bidder and the City's latest project to increase sewer capacity in the City. The project will increase the size of a line installed in 1969 that has now become the City's main trunk line from the west into the treatment plant. The line was built in 1969 to connect the City to the "new" treatment plant on Ditmar Road. The old line is a 15" clay sewer line and will be

increased to a 24" PVC line that will have 156% more capacity than the old one. The line was upgraded partially through the Hudson Heights Subdivision, but this will take the line from where that stopped to the headworks of the treatment plant.

Orr's bid of \$943,255 was over \$650,000 less than the engineer's estimated cost on the pro-

ject. Other bids ranged from \$1,068,299 all the way to \$1,979,686.

By coming in low, additional funding will be freed up to do other projects hopefully. The city is using a combination of 2021 bond funds and ARPA funds for all of the sewer treatment and collection projects currently in the works.

## Other Sewer Projects in Planning Stages

In addition to the Ditmar Road Sewer Line Project, the City has also directed engineers to look at two additional sewer line projects that will assist with capacity in areas where development is occurring.

For about 4 years the water department has been looking at a project that will add capacity to the SW side by diverting flow

from an existing 12" line and pumping that flow up Industrial Park Road to a manhole where a 21" line will intersect it. These will free up capacity in the existing 12" line for future developments.

A second project will add capacity to the same area by pumping wastewater from a new pump station off of S. Mock, bypassing existing col-

lection lines and upgrading and installing a new larger line along Butler through Rieff Park. This will add additional capacity along Mock Street and allow future development there the capacity needed to build in coming years. The line on Butler is proposed to be a 12" line and an additional force main connection to that would likely be a 4" or 6" line would be built along Mock Street and connect to the pump station on S. Mock.



**City Offices Will Be Closed, Monday January 15th for Martin Luther King Holiday with trash and recycling run on Tuesday January 16th.**

**On Monday February 19th for Presidents Day. Trash and Recycling will be run on Feb. 20th.**



*“ If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, If you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do keep moving forward” - Martin Luther King*

## City of Prairie Grove

### Police Expansion Moving along

Risley Architects, located in Fort Smith AR have moved forward with the design for the expansion of the Prairie Grove Police Department and have submitted some very preliminary drawings for consideration by administration and staff. The design includes offices for the Chief, Captain, and detective, shared offices for the Sergeants and squad room space for officers as well as new bathroom and locker space, more storage for evidence and firearms, and centralized reception area which will be accessed from the center of the building, same as the court room. Risley has proposed having approved schematic drawings in about two weeks, then an additional 6 weeks to develop construction drawings and documents for review. These will also be sent to the Arkansas Dept of Health at the same time for the plumbing review. Any revisions will be made after this and in about 4 weeks should be ready to go out for bid. 3-5 weeks is expected for bid advertisement and awarding a bid. The City is expecting a May or June Construction start. The project is estimated at \$1.2 million.

City crews will do some work in house such as preparation and construction of the proposed parking lot and other dirt work as needed.

### WWTP Progress

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion is on target for a March or April Start up. The contractor is getting bio unit 3 closer to completion as most of the concrete work is done including the necessary wall extensions, and connections needed for bio #4 whenever it is constructed. Bio Unit #3 still needs controls installed, the aerator drive installation, and the monitoring equipment installed.

The contractor has installed the 3rd screw pump into an existing channel and the motor and motor controls have all been installed.

The chemical pumps are all completed and all they await is final electrical work. They are connected to the chemical storage tanks and are all housed in a new chemical building.

The UV is nearing completion with a new weir installation as well as the new UV lights and controls.

Much of the electrical work is in, but there is still a lot of electrical work to complete in all phases of the construction. The installation of the new automatic bar screen is also underway.

In addition to the contractor’s project, the city has wrapped up the addition to the office and control space as well as rehabbing the existing office into a larger lab space for the facility.



#### Pictures

Top: Carbon Pumps in the New Chemical Building .

Middle: The Future Continuation Wall for Bio Unit #4 when its needed.

Bottom: The new carbon storage tank.

