

FYI

City of Prairie Grove, AR

NOVEMBER 2023

Downtown Work Begins

On October 23rd, Brothers Construction began moving equipment onto the job site near Buchanan Street. The School District has allowed them to utilize the area where the old vegetable stand used to be in exchange for removing the building and restoring the property, when done.

Initial work started on the water line replacement because crews have to wait on some of the large diameter drainage pipe that will be installed on the west side of the project. Water line crews started with preliminary street saw cutting on November 2nd.

Construction Crews broke a water line on Monday the 13th and City crews fixed the problem within hours of the incident.



2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

General Fund Admin Accounts Total Expenditures: \$3.0 M

WATER and SEWER O&M Total Expenditures: \$3.26 M

Street Department Total Expenditures: \$2.35 M

Solid Waste Total Expenditures: \$.814 M

EST. Revenues: \$3.06 M

O&M EST. Revenues: \$3.43 M

EST. Revenues: \$1.41 M

EST. Revenues: \$.834 M

Total City Revenues, All Accounts other than water: 7.34 M

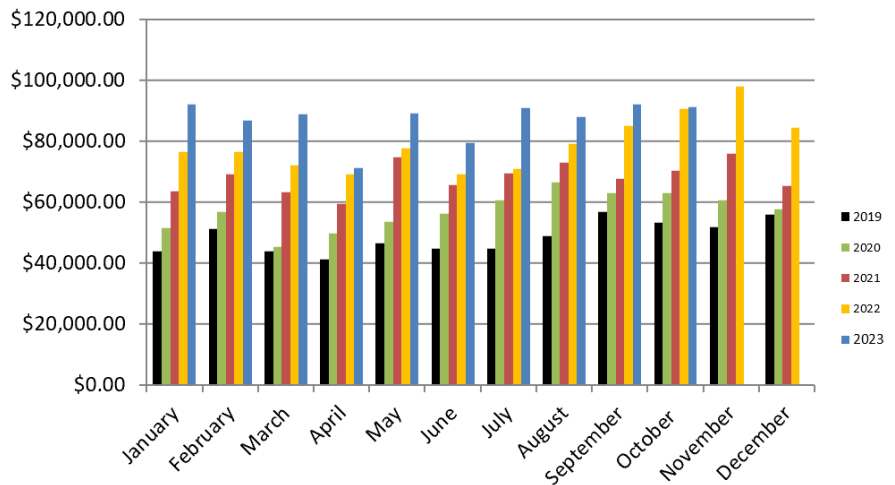
Total City Revenues Including Water: \$10.77 M

FYI

SALES TAX UPDATE

October Sales Tax were much lower than expected but still on par with October of 2022 collections. The collections were just slightly higher (.4%) than a year ago. The year to date increase fell to just over 13%, in direct comparison to 2022.

Sales Tax collections totaled just over \$250,000 for the month, with 1% delivering \$91,077 for the month, compared to \$90,690 last October.



WWTP EXPANSION NEARING COMPLETION

Progress continued at the WWTP project, but several large change order proposals raised some eyebrows for City Staff.

The contractor has requested \$14,000 for modifying the new chemical pump feeds, over \$136,000 just for the installation of the added new solids screen equipment in the headworks, and nearly \$34,000 for core drilling penetrations and installing pipe through the walls of the old bio units to connect the new. There was a discrepancy in the plans for the existing units that indicated the pipes were already in place but they weren't and will need to be added. Staff is evaluating the proposed expenses.

In addition, the contractor will request additional fees for cleaning out two existing bio units which is a requirement of the manufacturer of the system.



Top: Bio Unit #3

Bottom Right: Serpentine Weir #2

Bottom Left: 1 of 3 chemical pump skids

BUILDING UPDATE

October permits slowed, with only 5 new single family permits issued in October. Year to date, 149 new single family homes have been permitted. Interest rates finally seem to be slowing construction some but the market is still strong with local inventory still moving quickly overall, with new builds selling on average at around 60 days.

Population estimates that include the new housing starts are now at 8429.



SIDEWALKS

Crews recently replaced sidewalks along Viney Grove Road that had received complaints because of their close proximity to the edge of the road creating safety concerns near the school. In addition, a connecting sidewalk from middle school to the “high school” crossover sidewalk that connects Bush to Buchanan was also completed.

A third project, was also completed adding a crosswalk and connecting sidewalk to Bush and Pittman Street.



VINEY GROVE ROAD PROGRESS

Sweetser has completed the creek crossing construction for the new Viney Grove Extension and have started on the lay down of the finished base for the new road.

According to their proposed schedule they should be starting on the concrete curbs, driveway approaches, and sidewalks soon in preparation of the final base compaction prior to paving. They are on schedule based on their contract time, but have fallen behind on the schedule submitted to the City.



Happy Thanksgiving!!!



City offices will be CLOSED

Thursday November 23rd and Friday the 24th

In observance of Thanksgiving!

Trash and recycling will be picked up on Wednesday November 22nd.

- The Prairie Grove Police Department recently hosted Trunk or Treat on October 29th, and had an estimated 2000 children participate this year.
- The City met with Juliet Richey of Garver Engineers on November 16th to review proposed zoning changes that are tied to the new comprehensive land maps the City recently adopted. The new zoning will utilize zoning density instead of specifically setting minimum lot sizes which will give developers more flexibility when designing developments.
- Jackie Baker, Larry Oelrich, and Chuck Wiley recently attended a plumbing inspector recertification class in Springdale, and Brian Crigler attended the new inspector certification training at the same location. Crigler passed his test and is now certified to inspect Plumbing for the City.

PFAS, THE NEXT WATER CHALLENGE

The EPA has been actively developing new drinking water regulations since the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water ACT, 50 years ago, adopting many amendments and additional requirements including specific rules for surface water, lead and copper rules, disinfection by-products, cryptosporidium and others.

The latest regulation which is expected to be implemented possibly this year will address what's referred to as PFAS. PFAS stands for poly-fluoroalkyl substances. These substances will present many challenges for the EPA and drinking water systems.

- PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time.
- Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and ani-

mals all over the world and are present at low levels in a variety of food products and in the environment.

- PFAS are found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the nation and the globe.
- Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.
- There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they are found in many different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. This makes it challenging to study and assess the potential human health and environmental risks.

Currently there is no guidance on treating for PFAS. The initial regulations will undoubtedly include monitoring and reporting

and evaluating what concerns if any exist if PFAS is found.

It is anticipated that Prairie Grove will be testing for PFAS in the next year or two but so far its unclear.

EPA still has many answers to uncover and still doesn't fully understand much that needs to be known including:

- EPA's researchers and partners across the country are working hard to answer critical questions about PFAS:
- How to better and more efficiently detect and measure PFAS in our air, water, soil, and fish and wildlife
- How much people are exposed to PFAS
- How harmful PFAS are to people and the environment
- How best to remove PFAS from drinking water
- How to manage and dispose of PFAS