

Date: April 21, 2010

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

The weather has continued to remain unseasonably warm. As a result, the DPW has been able to begin spring startup tasks that we typically would not be able to undertake until May. The crew has been running double shifts of street sweeping and has begun to clean up the parks so they can be opened to the public within the next few weeks. They have been sweeping and cleaning along the walk trails, as the trails have also been getting much use as a result of the early snow melt. The DDA has decided to retire the old flower barrels that have been used in the past on the main corridors in town, and will replace them with new planters. The crew assisted the Golden K with distributing the new containers and getting them ready for planting. The replacements will be a nice improvement to the streetscape in our business districts.

Also, as a result of the early spring weather, Hebert Construction has been able to begin the construction of one of this year's utility improvements projects. They have begun working near the fairgrounds on secondary sewer collection lines that will further reduce the clear water inflow to the main interceptor line.

Our Treasurer has been preparing a draft of the 2010-11 annual budget. Once I have reviewed it and worked with the Treasurer to make any necessary changes, we will schedule the annual budget hearing as required by the City Charter.

Along with the usual daily tasks, the Clerk has been preparing for the upcoming School and Library election. We have also begun receiving and processing numerous Land Use Permits. As a reminder, we will be publishing notices that Land Use Permits are required for such things as fences, driveways, exterior remodeling projects, storage sheds, and decks, in addition to new homes, garages, and all building additions. Links to the City's Zoning Ordinance and Permit forms are available on the City's webpage at www.ironriver.org.

Councilman Brozak and I attended the Legislative Conference in Lansing this past week, and were able to take part in several of the seminars that were offered. Some of the information had to do with the drastic changes the State agencies will undergo with the cutbacks and early retirement programs that are being offered to their employees, as a means of cutting department overhead. These issues will likely have a negative impact on our community as we try to deal with the various agencies involved in our long-term projects. There was also much discussion regarding legislation that will affect our city with regard to the insurance benefits that we offer our own employees. Both the House and the Senate have Bills pending that may require the City to participate in statewide insurance programs, in conjunction with all "public employees." This of course is valuable information as we are currently entering negotiations with representatives from both of our union groups. During a meeting with all of the U.P. Representatives, it became very clear that we will not see the economic conditions in Michigan improving in the near future. As such, the City will have to begin take steps now to deal with likely reductions in Revenue Sharing and other state shared revenues.