

Date: September 21, 2011

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

Fall seems to have arrived quite suddenly and without much notice. You may recall that two weeks ago, we were experiencing temperatures in the low to mid 80's, but during the past few days we have seen those temps fall as much as 50 degrees. It has made us all aware at the City that it's time to be gearing up for the winter season that will be here much too soon.

During the past few weeks, the City has begun the process of preparing the equipment for the upcoming seasonal change that we go through annually. Grass cutting and other summer maintenance equipment has been winterized and made ready for cold storage. The City advertised for bids for winter ice control sand and awarded the low bid to Spicer Trucking at the price of \$5.40 per ton. The crew has already completed hauling the sand to the DPW garage and has gone through the normal procedure of mixing it with salt left over from last winter's supply.

The recent start-up of the Streetscape project has consumed much of our time as well. Utilities have been located in advance of the construction. Because the final bids came in higher than the budgeted amount, we have had to make some adjustments to the project unit quantities to stay within the dollars that are available. These adjustments will not significantly change the original design concept and will meet the project requirements set forth by the various funding agencies. This project has been almost four years in the making and has taught us that we need to remain flexible in our design as the funding sources have changed. The City and DDA owes our consultants GEI, a special "thanks" for staying on top of the dynamics of this project and doing so within their original proposed fees.

Last month, I touched on the various construction projects that will impact the City next summer. Residents and visitors will be subject to dealing with several construction projects as soon as spring arrives. The streetscape project on Washington/Lay Avenue will be continuing. The City will also be starting yet another water project in various locations throughout the town. We will also begin a major sewer project that will impact primarily the northern portions of the City. MDOT will begin the reconstruction of US2 from River to 9th Street, which will likely result in traffic issues along the entire route. Some of these projects will continue through the 2013 construction season, at which time MDOT currently plans to begin the reconstruction of M-189. I believe it is important that we continuously remind our residents, business owners, and visitors of these upcoming projects so that there is no element of surprise for anyone. In the near future I hope to be able to post a construction activity map on the City's website (www.ironriver.org). The map will be available for anyone that is interested in viewing exactly where the construction will be taking place, as well as the timeframe in which the work will take place. Hopefully this will relieve some of the inconveniences for our residents.