



Mayor's Letter

December 15, 2020

2020 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT. At the December 10th Council meeting, our independent auditors presented their official findings for the 2020 fiscal year. **We received a clean opinion for the 13th straight year.** A key financial result was our general fund cash reserves increased from 93 percent of our annual costs (2019) to 231 percent of our 2020 expenditures. **Why is our cash balance so high ?** Because

Current Cash Balances	
General Fund	\$631,782
Utility Fund	\$210,171
MDD	\$51,963
Total Cash	\$893,916

* Excludes property Tax and Debt Servicing accounts

we are going to have to pay approximately \$400,000 to bridge the funding gap when the streets are done. The current estimated costs of the road project will be just over \$4,900,000. We borrowed only \$4,500,000, so we are going to have to make up the difference. This was planned and budgeted for back in 2019 when I made my financial projections to develop our road financing package.

As the chart shows, today, we have just under \$900,000 in the bank. This amount excludes the money in our property tax and debt servicing bank accounts as we will use that money to make our bond payments. So, in May, when the project is complete we will easily have the funds to bridge the gap. Our financial planning is operating perfectly.

ROAD UPDATE. Paving is continuing on Carrie and Highridge. With the cold weather, it is taking significantly longer for the road to reach the required strength to allow vehicle traffic. We are getting the driveways open as fast as possible, but everyone will need to have a little more patience. Ed Bell will be shutting down for the holidays from December 23rd through January 4th. Paving will resume in January and Carrie and Highridge should be completed by the end of the month. We have significant underground work still to be done, especially at the "Bermuda triangle" (Meadowlake-Highridge) and the Carrie-Melody intersections.

We are currently ahead of schedule, but that can change depending on the rain. To keep advancing the schedule, **I have approved Ed Bell's request to move up the construction of Melody.** We will begin excavation and milling and start laying the base down as soon as possible. I expect work to start immediately after the new year. We are doing everything we can to keep the various work crews engaged. Once again let me reiterate - do not put anything in the right-of-way even if you think the street is done. I have not accepted nor approved any punch-list for any of the streets, they are all **"under construction"**. Recall, I told everyone back in March, April, and May to get your sprinklers out of the way. They have destroyed several lines recently and they aren't going to repair them. They have legal access to the entire right-of-way all the way to your property line. **They have full authority to excavate, fill, grade, bore, lay pipe, remove culverts, etc.**

CHRISTMAS WITH SANTA. As everyone has figured out, our traditional holiday party and photo's with Santa has been postponed to December 2021 (you can't cancel Santa - you can only delay him). However, our Christmas lights contest goes on !. The contest is sponsored by the Lakewood Village Municipal Development District with prizes to the top three finishers. MDD President Linda Loudon and fellow board member Robin West will do the judging early next week.

Its cold, wet, and a little muddy out there, but There's never been a better time to be in Lakewood Village.

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
Mayor

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