

We conducted our June 2nd City Council meeting via ZOOM. The agenda was fairly light with no public comment. We received a request from the Freedom Wall Committee to conduct a car show on June 13th between 9am and 5pm between Bridge Street and Broas. This event was approved 4/0, with the proceeds from the event going to maintenance and improvements at the park. They believe they will have between 75-80 cars, so this will be a pretty big event for our community.

In John's City Manager update, we learned that the Basketball courts in Central Riverside Park have been completed with the last portion of surfacing that was not completed in the Fall due to weather. Work has begun again on the trail project at the Gathering Place and the kayak launch project is beginning starting in Greenville working down to Belding.

Other general council discussion was around potential shortfall in budget funding from the county mileage requirements, capital funding for water and sewer improvements and capital planning and grant applications for items like a fire truck for the future. We also have some general discussion on redevelopment ready communities and if this is a program what we want to participate in.

Council gave recognition to the FLAG that is now at the Veteran's Memorial Park. This was placed just prior to Memorial Day and can be seen from the entire downtown area. Council also recognized the High School Graduates of 2020, while not the most traditional method of graduation it was nice to see the City and School work together to support the future leaders of our community. We received an update on the RAD conversion with the Belding Housing Commission and great progress has been made as this nears completion. The Council also recognized Sam Mason and the Belding Party Store.

This has been a tough time for our community over the last couple of months, with COVID-19, loss of employment, stay at home orders and many of us having our lives turned upside down. With all the unrest I want us all to remember our neighbors and the continued need for unity. It is all of us that make a community, so it will be important that we continue to exercise patience as we work together to make Belding safe, clean, and vibrant. Remember this is where we live and it is all of our responsibility to look out for one another. Our hopes are that our next meeting on June 16th that we will again be able to meet in person as a council. Be smart, be strong and be safe in all that you do!