

These have been unique times and the City Council has continued to meet via Zoom. The first couple of meetings were difficult for us to navigate the technology but we have adapted to how to run a virtual meeting and continue to move the business of the city forward. Over the last couple of months we have worked to get the budget in line for 2020/21, having a budget workshop, numerous discussions in council meetings, a public hearing and ultimately we approved the 2020/21 budget in our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Other resolutions passed in our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were:

Approving the closing of our Chemical Bank accounts due to the upcoming closure of the branch in Belding. We subsequently approved opening accounts at the Mercantile Bank. We are required to have our banking set up in multiple locations. We also have an account at Independent Bank.

We approved Arthur Mahar's reappointment to the Belding Housing Commission. Art continues to come with high recommendations and is a pillar on the Housing Commission. We are lucky to have Art as part of our community.

We approved a resolution for funding for local bridges. This was in essence approval to apply for funding support to improve the bridges in the City. This is not a quick process and could potentially take place over the next few years. If approved, we anticipate that we could receive 500K for the bridge improvements of which we would be required to provide a \$25K match.

We had an update on the RAD conversion with HUD and the Belding Housing Commission. This has been a journey, but the project is nearing completion and is pending approval from Washington.

The City Offices continue to be closed pending the end of the Governor's Shelter at Home Order. The City Council would like to thank the City Staff as they have continued to provide essential services during this entire crisis, offering Police, Fire, Department of Public Works and Dial a Ride support to our community.

Lastly, the City has been working with the High School to help support the Graduating Class of 2020. Together everyone is working to use the Gathering Place as a resource for posting signage for their graduation. This is a tough time and these students have worked most of their lifetimes to achieve this graduation. If you know of or have a graduate, remember the importance of this time and do all that you can to help them celebrate this achievement.

My apologies for not posting for a few meetings, this is totally on me, and we will make sure we keep everyone updated in the future. Have a safe Memorial Day and if you get a chance plan on attending our next council meeting via Zoom or if we have approval, in person.