

Our City

To over 75% of the eligible electorate of Power County I say, thank you! Thank you for voting and taking part in the democratic process. To those of you who chose to vote for both the Water and Hospital bonds, for what is it worth, you have my most sincere appreciation for voting for the long term security of our community. To those who were unable to support either bond, I won't presume to speculate why, but I respect your decision and again thank you for taking part in the process.

In that same vein I had an interesting conversation with one of my students last Tuesday morning. This student was one of the many who volunteered to go door to door on November 5th and handout information on the Water Bond. A resident told the student, "I will never vote for something Beitia supports." The student didn't know the person and I don't either; but I find the concept interesting that someone would not vote for something simply because someone else supported the idea. I won't say I am not curious as to the why, but I certainly respect that right. That being said, if there is something you think I need to be doing differently as Mayor or as a teacher I will certainly find the time to talk to you about that if you want to.

Along that line I had a good and productive chat and tour with Walt Mauch last Tuesday afternoon after voting. For those of you who may not know, Walt is a retired Marine Corps veteran and someone not opposed to telling folks what he thinks. I appreciate his service and candor very much. Walt takes his duties as a member of our community very seriously and I appreciate that too. Walt and I spent a good half hour driving around town as he pointed out various things that he believed need to be addressed; some of which were clear ordinance violations while others were street maintenance issues. The short of it is, it takes all of us to make American Falls the best place to live. Thank you Walt for doing your part.

For their part, our City crews remain busy in preparation for winter. Cody Moldenhauer and Chris Fehringer spent most of last Tuesday in Idaho Falls at a workshop sponsored by the Eastern Idaho Weed Department. Chris also accompanied Water and Waste Water Superintendent Pete Cortez on Wednesday to an Idaho Power Incentive Grant workshop; the results of which could yield the City some more return on investments through the efficiencies gained with our new water and waste water infrastructure.

Chris remained busy as he and Jeremy Peirsol completed a new Local Rural Highway Investment Program (LRHIP) grant for \$100,000. The FY18 LRHIP are due November 17, this week. The Idaho Transportation Board in conjunction with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) have developed this program to assist small cities, counties, and highway districts to improve the investment in their roadway infrastructure. The program is funded by an exchange of Federal-aid rural funds for Idaho Transportation Department State funds. Chris also worked with Clerk Herndon in compiling and completing the City's LRHIP Road and Bridge report.

As we are finally getting some colder nights, leaves continue to fall and as such Superintendent Daren Dahlke and the Street Department will be sweeping streets as long as weather permits. I would ask that if you live on a street with a lot of trees with falling leaves, please do not leave

vehicles parked on the street between the hours of 8:00 am. through 5:00 pm. It will make their job much easier. Should it become necessary, certain streets will be closed for sweeping in the coming days and weeks. Daren and I will be meeting this week to determine a schedule for those streets that could be affected. I will follow up with more on this matter next week.

Preliminary work has started on the demolition of the tennis courts. A special thank you to AMS for core sampling the base and sub-base of the existing courts so that Daren and his crew have a better idea of the extent they need to excavate the old material. The old asphalt slag will be ground up and used for sub base as the project progresses.

Sewer flushing progressed through Monday and Tuesday of last week in zones 1, 2 and 3. Now the Waste Water crew will be TVing the lines and inspecting them for trouble spots that will require further maintenance or replacement in the future. With some luck the unpleasant incidents of lines backing up as they were being cleaned a few weeks ago can now be avoided in the future as we will finally have a clear picture of what the conditions of all those sewer lines are.

I'm not sure if it's appropriate or relevant to follow a passage on sewer lines with how I felt when I woke up last Wednesday morning. More importantly, how I felt when I looked into the eyes of many of my students throughout that day. Unlike the community member who would never vote for something I support, I still believe that more binds us together than divides us as members of this community, State, and country. It is that commonality that makes this country the greatest in this ever-changing world. There is no place I would rather live. However, it's the constant change that scares most of us. The uneasiness that comes with uncertainty. The heartfelt fear that our children's lives will be more troubled than our own. The knowledge that in a dwindling middle class, in spite of our efforts or vote to improve our situation, nothing in fact changes for the better. Our county, State and country elected to take a different path than the one we are on last Tuesday. I hope it leads us where we all want to go as a nation. I also hope that the rhetoric that filled the last two years does not manifest itself throughout our society. We are a nation and society born of immigrants; each culture contributing to what makes us so uniquely great as a country. The City of American Falls and Power County are no different; despite a few political differences we share a vast commonality and it is in that commonality I still find hope that each of us can and will be our own best selves as we work together to make each other's lives, this city, and this nation all that it can be.

Until next week...