



Talk with the Mayor

Tuesday March 11, 2014

10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. City Hall

Topic: Open discussion, question and answer.

Payment Options Expand for City Services

More and more people are using electronic banking services offered by their financial institutions, and the City recognizes this trend will continue. As requested by a growing number of residents and businesses, the City is now set up to accept payment by automatic withdrawal from an individual or business account to the City for utility bills, building permits, etc.

Payment Options

- Cash or Check
- On-line at www.middleton.id.gov
- Customer Banking "Bill Pay"
- Automatic Account Withdrawal
- Debit and Credit Cards accepted at City Hall

Snow Removal

The Idaho Transportation Department clears snow through downtown. The road has three names: State Highway 44, Main Street west of Middleton Road, and Star Boulevard east of Middleton Road. The City sands school zones and collector-road intersections when it snows or rains then freezes. In the past, snow usually melts within a few days, but the recent large volume and cold temperatures caused snow to remain in streets longer than normal. The City does not own snow-removal equipment, but is looking into purchasing a plow that attaches to the City's dump-truck so snow can be moved next time it snows, and snows, and snows!

Water Shut-off Set for 26th of Each Month

When a Middleton utility bill is not paid, the City is authorized by state law to stop providing utility services (drinking water, sewer disposal, trash/recycling --solid waste disposal, etc). The City had almost 2300 utility accounts as of January 31, 2014; one account equals one residence or business. The vast majority of people pay their utility bill on time, but several do not and the City shuts-off water.

Since January 2012, water shut-off has been after the three-day grace period, so sometime between 24th - 29th. The City's utility clerks evaluated water shut-off dates in 2013 and year-to-date 2014 and determined: 1) the highest number of shut-offs are when water shut-off day is on the 24th of a month (about 40 residences), 2) the middle is when shut-off day is on the 26th (about 20 residences), and 3) the lowest number is when shut-off day is on the 28th or 29th (about 12 residences).

To help establish a date that would help a majority of residents pay utility bills prior to shut-off, utility clerks researched when benefits were paid for social security disability, retirement and unemployment. They also researched when teachers received paychecks from the Middleton School District. Based on that research it was proposed, and City Council approved amending the City Code to replace the three-business day grace period with a fixed water shut-off date of the 26th of each month. Shut-off will be the next City business day if the 26th is on a weekend or holiday.

Annual Review and Update

Mayor and City Council finished the annual review and update of the City Code, fee schedule, employee policy manual, and supplemental standards for public works. The purpose of the annual review is to remove unnecessary regulations and ensure fees are adequate to pay related costs and are not excessive. This year, the Mayor and Council removed the \$15.00 administrative fee charged each time a utility account is opened.

Mid-Year Budget Review and Amendment

Mayor and City Council finished the mid-year budget review and amendment. The City's financial (fiscal) year is from October 1 – September 30, and the end-of-February is mid-year. Proposed amendments published in the Middleton Gazette in January 2014 were adopted by Council with one change. Only \$165,000, rather than \$950,000, will be paid toward the City's 2002 sewer bond because about \$240,000 was used to pay expenses for the wastewater treatment plant project, \$350,000 is in reserve for emergencies, and about \$200,000 will pay necessary sewer-fund expenses anticipated during the remainder of this fiscal year.

Budget Review

Fund Department	Emergency Reserve	FY2014 Budgeted	FY2014 YTD Actual	Percent Remaining
General	\$172,000	\$1,229,558	\$282,964	76.99%
Parks	\$50,000	\$847,010	\$56,689	93.31%
Library	\$295,283	\$172,496	\$45,811	73.44%
Streets	\$120,000	\$2,427,880	\$253,255	89.57%
Sewer	\$350,000	\$2,512,924	\$1,096,842	56.35%
Water	\$250,000	\$853,525	\$146,614	82.82%

Important Utility Dates:



Utility Bill Due
\$10.00 late fee assessed if not paid by 5:00 p.m.



\$15.00 Termination Fee assessed to account if not paid by 5:00 p.m.



Water Shut-off

The Playground is Open - ENJOY! Middleton Place Park (Harmon)



Ribbon Cutting March 22, at 1:00 p.m.

Every one is invited! Bring the kids!

The new equipment includes a climbing structure with 4 new slides, rock wall with slide, seesaw, overdrive, bee and car spring riders and two cozy cocoons. The playground was designed for ages 2-12. The cozy cocoon was especially designed for those with autism spectrum disorders. The swing set was repainted and has new seats for toddlers.

New City Park Downtown!

The City purchased the vacant land for a park on the north side of Main Street across from Middleton Middle School. The park will have standard City park features: playground, benches, shade trees, restrooms, and walking/bicycling trails. It will also have a modern skate park with good visibility from Main Street.

The City purchased the land from Don and Lori Cantrell, who donated \$20,000 to the City park fund to help build the skate-park. Thank you Cantrells! The next steps are: to remove the weeds, tree stumps, and old trees cluttering Willow Creek; to prepare a park master plan and skate-park plan; and to start building the skate park. The City budgeted \$50,000 to design and start improving the park and skate-park.

In 2013, all City residents were invited by mail and in the City FrontPage newsletter to participate in one of eight meetings to discuss the Middleton Connects planning map. Eight-nine percent (89%) of those in attendance liked the direction the City is going regarding Safe Routes to School sidewalks, upgrade and expansion of parks, road and intersection improvements, and city facilities and finances.

Come Play on the NEOS 360 at the Trolley Station

The City has the NEOS 360 set up inside the Trolley Station for the community to stop by, play, and give feedback! This toy is on loan through March 13. The toy could be used in parks or as traveling playground that moves around town for kids to play on during the summer months. Come down and try it out!



Open Play Times at the Trolley Station

Wednesday	March 5	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday	March 8	11:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Monday	March 10	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	March 11	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	March 12	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Are You Savvy About Scams?

Older adults are a prime target for financial scammers. Discover the most common types of scams—and how you can avoid them. The City of Middleton invites you to attend a FREE Savvy Saving Seniors® workshop on March 6, 2014, 2 p.m. at City Hall. Receive a free handbook with the top 10 scams targeting seniors, 8 steps to protect yourself, and what you should do if you've been scammed. This event is sponsored by the National Council on Aging, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement, the Idaho Commission on Aging and the Idaho Senior Medicare Patrol. It is educational only—NO financial products will be sold. The workshop is free. Join us! Please RSVP by March 5, 2014 to Kandice at 208-585-3133.

Spring break fun for kids and adults!

Grab your neighbors, friends, family members or co-workers and create a team! Registration forms are due March 14th, available at City Hall or at www.middletonid.gov. Call 208-585-3133 for more information.

Date: March 25, 2014
Location: Middle School Gym
Start time: 11:00 a.m. Middle School and High School Division
 5:00 p.m. Open Division
Cost: \$10.00 per player (6 players per team)

