



Talk with the Mayor

Tuesday February 14, 2017

10:00 a.m.

City Hall, 1103 W. Main St.

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Please Notice This



**City Hall and
Police Dept.**

moved to

1103 W. Main Street

Starting February 6, 2017, payments will only be accepted at the new location. A "drive-up" payment box is available on the west side of the building. City Council, and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings will be held at 6 North Dewey.

Water Meters Not Read

The city did not read water meters in January 2017 because the electronic equipment does not read reliably through this depth of snow, and digging to locate each meter is unreasonable. Each utility account was billed a "water use" amount identical to last month, and an adjustment will be made on the bills following an actual meter read.

Winter - The Fourth Season

Thanks be to God for four seasons, distinct and beautiful in their own way. Thank you to every individual, friend, and neighbor who helped shovel snow, especially for those who could not do it for themselves. Thank you to the mail carriers, delivery vans, garbage/recycling trucks, and school bus drivers who braved the intimidating and sometimes treacherous roads to perform their jobs.

Cities in the valley have different policies about snow removal. For example, Boise does not clear roads in subdivisions, so homeowners' associations and individuals must hire that work to be done. Because snow removal companies were in high demand in the eastern part of the valley during late December and early January, none were available to assist in Middleton immediately during and following the back-to-back precipitation cycles experienced since the first snowfall on December 10, 2016.

Dec. 9 – 11, 2016	snowed about 3 inches
Dec. 14	snowed about 3 inches
Dec. 23-24	snowed about 6 inches
Jan. 3, 2017	snowed about 8 inches
Jan. 4-5	snowed about 4 inches
Jan. 10	snowed about 3.5 - 4 inches
Jan. 18	snowed about 4 inches
Jan 23	snowed about 1.5 inches

The snow was rained on or melted and has settled a few times during the last month, but the overall snow fall was over 30 inches in about forty days ... over 42% of the average annual precipitation for our area.

Snow Storm vs. Severe Weather Event

On a personal note, I was raised in Caldwell and winter storm events like this one were common almost annually in the late 1970s and early 1980s. I rode bus 32 to school in junior high, drove a flat-bed, stick-shift two-wheel drive pickup to high school and got stuck all of the time, and rode a snowmobile to weekend basketball practice. Those are distant memories because it has been almost three decades since those grand winter storms that enhanced Christmas, New Years, sledding, tubing, skiing, snowmobiling, building snow caves and igloos using ice blocks.

-- Mayor Taylor

The question was asked "Where is the national guard?" The snow received in Middleton and other cities in Treasure Valley was a snow storm, not a "severe weather event" as that term is typically used because there were no high winds, freezing rain or flooding. Those elements were predicted by forecasters, but did not occur in Middleton. This snow storms were unusual, inconvenient and caused a minimal amount of damage for most residents. It was good experience for a possible future severe weather event.

State of Emergency

Mayors of several surrounding cities declared a "state of emergency" during the recent storm event: Boise (about 297,000 residents), Meridian and Nampa (about 86,000 residents), Caldwell (about 59,000 residents), Kuna (about 19,000 residents). Why didn't Middleton (about 7,500 residents)?

A "state of emergency" has three primary effects: 1) Boise, Meridian, Kuna, etc. are all in Ada County and served by one road agency, the Ada County Highway District. City residents wanted more service faster, so those cities declared a "state of emergency" so the cities could contract with snow removal companies; 2) it allows a mayor to contract without first obtaining city council approval, and 3) it allows city leaders to bypass state laws requiring three estimates before selecting the lowest if the contract amount is under \$25,000, or requiring publication, bidding, and selecting the lowest if the contract amount is over \$100,000.

Neither of these primary effects was necessary in Middleton. The city was able to contract for assistance removing snow without bypassing city council or state laws.

Will the Roof Hold?

Snow Loads. Houses in our area have roofs designed to support normal snow loads for this area Southwest Idaho area, 20 pounds per square foot. The weight of layered snow, ice, and melting snow that is now on roofs may exceed the designed snow load. Insurance companies do not pay for preventative measures such as snow removal from roof tops, but homeowners' insurance policies usually cover damage actually sustained.

Each homeowner must determine how much snow they will allow to remain on the roof and take measures to remove the snow when it exceeds that amount. The depth, moisture content, and type of snow (new snow, old frozen or melting snow) must be taken into consideration to evaluate the additional weight on the roof structure.

Flat roofs and patio covers are generally the most susceptible to damage from heavy snow fall. These roofs will require the most attention during the snow season. If snow removal is to be done, these roofs are usually first on the list.

Roofs constructed with prefabricated-engineered trusses are designed to support a uniform snow load. Attempts to remove snow from a trussed roof can create an unbalanced load on the truss and cause a failure where it would not have failed had the load been left undisturbed. This is not necessarily the case with a home that has a framed roof. It is a good practice to keep a general balance when removing snow from a roof of any type, but not as critical on a framed roof.

Flood Prevention and Water Quality – Middleton's Storm Water System

Snow, melting, freezing, more snow, melting, etc. is the natural pattern of the "precipitation cycle" we learned about in the school when we were children. It should not surprise or alarm us now.

The City of Middleton is responsible for monitoring storm water discharge to the creeks and drains within City limits. This season's rotating freezing and warming temperatures are a reminder to us all that this is a real concern.

Residents can help by:

- Help keep gutters, storm drain inlets, and culverts clear of obstructions. Compacted snow, ice, slush, and other debris can plug these and create ponding and contribute to flooding. When shoveling sidewalks and driveways, please place snow on lawns and landscaping as much as possible, rather than in the street.
- Do not try to drive through water that is 6 inches or deeper. This depth of water can cause loss of control or possible stalling of your vehicle. If negotiating a flooded section of roadway, drive in the middle where the water will be at its shallowest.
- Google Earth street view can be used to help locate storm drain inlets in your neighborhood.
- Never put cat litter, dirt/sand etc., chemicals, pollutants, or other contaminants degrading water quality into inlets. All storm drain inlets eventually discharge to the Boise River.
- Call 911 if an emergency arises. Notify the city of non-emergency situations.

Lessons Learned

#1 Communication simultaneously to all residents would have been helpful, but was impossible. Facebook, and the city's website and reader-board, were the primary methods used. Residents can do their part by providing the city an email address to use during emergencies to communicate clean-up efforts, schedules, and other important information.

Lessons Learned-continued

#2 News reports and weather alerts in the media sounded alarming, but the predictions were much worse than the actual weather events. The weather in Idaho is renowned for changing several times a day, so snow followed by sun and melting snow in the same day is expected, as is having that same cycle multiple days in a row.

There are four seasons in Middleton, and it is customary to go sledding, tubing, skiing, snowmobiling, etc. to enjoy the Christmas and New Year's holidays and the winter season. Residents can do their part by enjoying the season, remaining optimistic, not panicking, and by helping themselves and others to the extent possible. Four-wheel drive vehicles are preferable to two-wheel drive vehicles to maneuver through snowy, icy, or slushy roads.

#3 City snow removal and clean-up efforts take into account the snow-melt and drainage that follows. Two lanes of travel on each road, and driveway entrances and mailboxes are cleared to maintain access, garbage/recycling pick-up, and mail delivery.

City removal efforts include a plow or grader clearing the travel lanes, followed by one or more backhoes, skid steers, bobcats or tractors to clear in front of driveway entrances and mailboxes. The plow and grader go much faster than the other equipment, and the other equipment will follow as soon as possible.

Residents can help by not parking on the streets, and by placing garbage and recycling carts on the "street side" of plowed snow. Bring carts back in at the end of each day to avoid being buried by plowed snow.

#4 Weathering a storm event is a community effort that requires perspective, patience, coordination, tenacity, and assistance from everyone. Thank you to the thousands of residents who cleared driveways and sidewalks for themselves and others.



Thank you to those with trucks or ATVs with blades who helped clear roads, intersections, sidewalks and driveways. Thank you to the post office, mail-carriers, bus drivers, and garbage/recycling truck drivers who pressed their way forward despite the awkward road conditions. Thank you to city employees Steven Rogers, Cody Bequeath, Terrell Mendive, and Jim Gordon who were the front effort by the city in plows and backhoes trying to keep ahead of the repeat snow storms on all city streets, not just main roads.

Thank you to Warrington Construction and McAlvain Construction for lending a hand with their graders and bobcat equipment and employees. Thank you to Dave Donohue, who provided extra help clearing driveways and sidewalks especially to aged and infirm.

Garbage and Recycling Pick-Up

"As your solid waste service provider, we can't thank you enough for plowing the public roads in Middleton. With over 6" of snow on the ground, our crews struggled to navigate through the City streets (even with chains) until you brought plow crews in. By carving out lanes wide enough for cars to pass, and space at the end of each cul-de-sac for our trucks to turn around, we were able to resume trash and recycling collections in every neighborhood. I'm sure the residents, mail carriers and delivery trucks operating in Middleton are equally grateful! Thank you for dedicating staff time and resources to keeping your streets as safe and accessible as possible." Rachele Klien, Republic Services



22 Acres Levelled

The vacant land north of Middleton Lakes Subdivision on the west side of Crane Creek Way was leveled, and dwarf draught-resistant grass will be planted in early spring to minimize cheat-grass and other weed growth.

Local Government Taxing Districts

The city is made up of many different governing districts. It is important to understand that different districts have different leadership, rules, regulations and taxing abilities. This information should help when you have questions. Each of these districts has open meetings that can be attended to understand issues and provide input.

City of Middleton **585-3133**

City Council meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., City Hall. The City owns and manages the building, planning and police departments, library, city water and sewer systems, streets and drains, and the following parks: Roadside Park, Centennial Grove, Middleton Place Park, and Piccadilly Park.

Cemetery District **585-9394**

Cemetery Board Meetings: 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Cemetery District Office. Owns and manages the Middleton Cemetery.

Fire District **585-6650**

Fire District Meetings: 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. Owns and manages Middleton Rural Fire District.

Greater Middleton Parks & Rec. District **585-3461**

Park & Rec. Board Meetings: 1st Thursday at the Parks and Rec. office. Owns and manages Hawthorne Park, Foote Park, and Ed Payne Park.

School District **585-3027**

School Board Meetings: 2nd Monday at 6:00 p.m. at the School District Office. Owns and manages all public schools in the Middleton area.



Emergency 911
Non-Emergency Phone
208-585-0008

Calendar

City Council 6:30 p.m. City Hall	February 1
City Hall closed <i>Move to 1103 W. Main</i>	February 3
Planning and Zoning 7:00 p.m. City Hall	February 13
City Council 6:30 p.m. City Hall	February 15
City Hall closed <i>Presidents Day</i>	February 20
State of the City 7:00 p.m. Trolley Station	February 22
River Park Planning Meeting Directly following the State of the City	February 22
Emergency Preparedness / Disaster Response Training 9:00 a.m.-noon Middle School Gym	April 8

River Park Planning Meeting

On Feb 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Trolley Station, Mayor Darin Taylor will present the State of the City address immediately followed by an anonymous audience-response survey, including a discussion of resident-desired features in a nature park over one-mile along the Boise River.

New Road-Name Signs

Sign and post materials were received but installation of the new road-name signs was delayed in order to clear snow and drain inlets. Signs will be installed as soon as practical.

Final Route Idaho Power 138 kV Transmission Line

The city determined parameters to re-align South Middleton Road and connect with North Middleton Road, and to intersect with a future River Road parallel to and south of Highway 44 about one-quarter mile. Idaho Power and the city identified a route that would blend-in along a trimmed tree-line on the south side of Mill Slough. Tentative transmission pole locations are being selected to minimize view interference.