

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PROJECT NEWS

October 14, 2016

CITY NEWS

City of Marion Names Joseph McHale New Chief of Police

The City of Marion is pleased to introduce Joseph McHale as its next Chief of Police. He will officially join the City on December 12.

In this new role, McHale is responsible for the administration, coordination, and control of all Marion Police Department activities. The department employs 45 sworn officers and 12 civilian employees. The agency consists of patrol, investigations and support services divisions.



"We were fortunate to have a strong pool of candidates vying for the position," said City Manager Lon Pluckhahn. "Chief McHale comes to Marion highly-regarded by his colleagues and the search committee. I am confident his 25 years of law enforcement experience, vision and drive will take the Marion Police Department to new places."

"I sincerely look forward to the opportunity to serve the citizens of Marion," said McHale. "I am humbled and excited to become a part of the Marion community and continue Marion's legacy as one of the safest cities in Iowa."

Community Forum Scheduled to Discuss Future Uses of Emerson Elementary

Marion residents and community stakeholders are invited to join the City of Marion and Marion Independent School District for a community forum to share ideas and discuss future uses of Emerson Elementary School. The forum will take place Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Emerson Elementary, 1400 10th Avenue in Marion.



With the construction of Longfellow well underway, the City and Marion Independent are working together to determine the future of the Emerson Elementary building(s) and site. A public forum has been scheduled to gather input from the area residents and current Emerson users to help determine what may ultimately happen to the existing school. Those unable to attend may submit written comments to Chris Dyer, Superintendent of Marion Independent School District or complete an online form at www.cityofmarion.org.

Charter Amendment to Appear on Nov. 8 Ballot

The Nov. 8 election ballot will ask Marion residents to determine if the existing Home Rule Charter should be amended so that ward council representatives are elected by the residents of the specific wards, rather than by all Marion residents, as is the present case.

Council members vote on issues that affect the entire community. A "Yes" vote supports changing the charter so that only residents of a specific ward elect their ward representative. A "No" vote supports keeping the existing system in place where all residents have an opportunity to cast a ballot for all council representatives.

View the ballot language and additional election information at www.cityofmarion.org. Then make your way to the polls on Nov. 8.

*The complete **Annual Engineering Work Program and Map**, with estimated construction schedules, separated by project type, can be found at www.cityofmarion.org.*

2016 PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Alburnett Road Extension Project - \$1,300,000 (Concept Study – Snyder & Associates, \$248,950)

Funding Source: LOST funding; project funding is not intended to provide for the construction of the bridge over Indian Creek.

Project Overview: The funding was proposed to complete several early phases of the project, including the concept study, design and possible right-of-way acquisitions from Boyson Road to 7th Avenue. Council has reaffirmed the need for the realignment due to traffic volumes on Central Avenue and 10th Street. City Council awarded a contract to Snyder & Associates regarding the concept study on June 23, 2016 in an amount of \$248,950.00.

Progress Updates: The Environmental Report, including the wetland delineation, Archaeological Investigation and the Architectural Historical Survey, are complete. Also, the traffic analysis of proposed Alburnett Road and associated intersections is complete. Some utility location work is still in process north of Indian Creek so survey crews will be in the area. Design evaluation and modeling of Indian Creek continues and a bridge alignment and designs are being considered.



An open house will be held regarding the concept study once information and data have been collected and conceptual design decisions have been made.

Central Corridor Complete Streets and Capacity Improvements

(Roundabout at 7th Ave & 7th St) - Ricklefs Excavating, LTD, \$2,871,607

Funding Source: Bond Funding and a grant from the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program.

Project Overview: Complete reconstruction of the 7th Street and 7th Avenue intersection which will include a four-legged roundabout. The project will be broken into 7 stages.

Progress Updates: Currently Stages 5 and 6 are underway while utility work is being performed per Stage 7. Last week they finished testing the water main, poured colored concrete along 7th Avenue, and paved sections of 6th Avenue.

This week the more of 6th Avenue was paved and they finished up the concrete along 7th Avenue. They also continued to pour sidewalks and ramps per Stage 5.

With this stage of the project the following streets will continue to be closed:

- 7th Street: between 6th and 7th Avenue
- 6th Avenue: between west of 7th Street and east of 8th Street
- Intersection of 6th Avenue and 7th Street
- Intersection of 6th Avenue and 8th Street
- The 7th Street entrance of Country Kitchen

The contractor has used approximately 110 of 120 working days provided; 80% of the contract has been completed.

Central Corridor Project (26th Street to 31st Street) – Abode Construction

Funding Source: This is a joint public/private project.

Project Overview: The project includes the partial construction of the Central Corridor Project between 13th and 31st Streets by Abode Construction, including the roundabout near the old Marion Iron site connecting 6th Avenue to 7th Avenue. The roundabout will be constructed as a part of Phase 2 with five separate stages.

Progress Updates: On Monday, October 17, 2016 westbound traffic will be shifted onto the new pavement of 7th Avenue after the morning rush, tentatively, to allow for Stage 4 to begin. This shift in traffic will last roughly a week; then a hybrid of Stage 3 and 4 will occur.

Access to businesses will be maintained, but will be a granular surface once the old 7th Avenue is removed. It is recommended to use 8th Avenue to access the businesses.



Working days and completion date will be set and controlled by the developer. The contractor has completed 56% of the Phase II contract.

We encourage people to use 8th Avenue to access those businesses within the construction area as it is difficult to make left hand turns during peak hours. At this time, left hand turns are not permitted at the intersection of 7th Avenue and 31st Street.

Fairview Drive Reconstruction - Rathje Construction Co., \$537,400

Funding Source: Miscellaneous Street Repair funding.

Project Overview: The project includes the reconstruction of Fairview Drive from S. 8th Street to S. 11th Street.

Progress Updates: All of the trees that were either in conflict with or effected by the project have been removed and the stumps are being ground down. Once the tree removal service is finished, the contractor will complete the remaining sidewalks, add topsoil, and seed the site.

The contractor has used approximately 66.5 of 70 working days provided; 97% of the contract has been completed. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$500 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of this schedule.



ImaginArt in the Alleys Project - Central States Concrete, LLC, \$343,468.15

Funding Sources: ArtPlace America Grant - \$350,000; City bond funds - \$315,000; public/private donations approximately - \$175,000.

Project Overview: Infrastructure improvements to the alleys between 10th & 11th Streets and 7th & 8th Avenues. The project includes the installation of: new paving, lighting, drainage systems, art, and aesthetic enhancements.

Progress Updates: Concrete has been poured and the art installation foundations and bases have been set. Rows of pavers will be placed to break-up the appearance of the concrete in the alleyways. The project will be wrapping up in the upcoming weeks.



The contractor has completed 85% of the contract. The project shall be completed no later than October 23, 2016. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$1,500 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of this schedule.

2016 Lowe Park Parking Lot Project - L.L. Pelling Company, Inc., \$671,415.65

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: This includes the extension of Irish Drive into Lowe Park, along with the construction of two parking lots and adjacent trails.

Progress Updates: The parking lots, access road, entrance off Irish Drive, and most of the trails are receiving the top layer of asphalt.

Three extra working days were added to the project per a change order. The contractor has used approximately 42.5 of the 53 working days provided; 80% of the contract has been completed. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$300 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of these schedules.



2016 Sidewalk Assessment Project – Borst Bros. Construction, Inc. \$128,445

Funding Source: Annual program using Capital Improvement Project funds

Project Overview: This annual program provides for the construction of sidewalks in areas where no sidewalk currently exists. Below are the locations that will receive sidewalk as a part of this program per the State process for assessment along with their approximate starting dates:

- 27th Street (West Side) From 10th to 12th Avenue [**Completed**]
- Grand Avenue (South Side) South 15th Street to 420' west [**Completed**]
- Barrington Parkway (North Side) west of 10th Street [**Completed**]
- East Post Road (West Side) Oakbrook Drive to 1040 Grand Avenue [**Completed**]

Progress Updates: City Council accepted the project at their October 6, 2016 meeting. The contractor used approximately 30 of the 40 working days provided; 100% of the contract has been completed.

2016 Sidewalk Inspection Program

Project Overview: Every two years the Engineering Interns walk the sidewalks, marking those that do not meet City of Marion standards with pink paint. This year they have walked the northern portion of Marion, approximately McGowan Blvd and north. This is done to help ensure that our city sidewalks are user friendly and safe for citizens.

Progress Updates: Certified letters were sent to those properties that have not yet repaired their sidewalk violation. Approximately 89% of the violations have been repaired.



Tower Terrace Road Project – Phase V – Mooney-Engle Land Company, \$1,517,642
Funding Source: This is a joint public/private project.

Project Overview: The project includes the extension of Tower Terrace Road east from the 10th Street intersection to the new location of Winslow Road, west of Indian Creek. The construction will extend the typical cross section of the divided street with grass median, decorative lights, and trees. The project will also include the completion of the signalization of the 10th Street and Tower Terrace Road intersection.



Progress Updates: Westbound Tower Terrace Road is being paved up to the intersection with the new alignment of Winslow Road. Once the intersection is paved, the 8' wide multi-use side paths will be installed.

Construction activities are anticipated to have limited impact to traffic.

Waldo's Rock Park Parking Lot - \$150,000

Funding Source: REAP grant awarded to the Marion Parks & Recreation Department

Project Overview: In June 2015 Waldo Morris donated 7.4 acres of land near Partners Avenue and 62nd Street to the City to be used as a city park. The park will feature a glacial erratic boulder formation, which will serve as the center of the park. The park will include a trail loop and a fishing pier. An access road and parking lot will be constructed off of Partners Avenue. The project also includes a trail head connection to the Grant Wood Trail, pavilion, and trees and prairie grasses.



Progress Updates: Grading and asphalt surfacing of the parking lot and roadway entrance along with the trail loop around the pond have been completed. They have also started constructing the pavilion. Within the next few weeks, pond restoration and deepening will begin. The project is expected to be completed and opened to the public in 2017.

Winslow Road Realignment Project - Mooney-Engle Land Company, \$1,070,411

Funding Source: Joint public/private project

Project Overview: This includes the relocation of Winslow Road from south of Settlers Drive to Tower Terrace Road. The new alignment will go through Bridge Creek Fourth Addition. The realignment will have a typical cross section of a collector street with trail on one side and sidewalk on the other.

Progress Updates: Once Tower Terrace Road has been paved to the new alignment of Winslow Road, the final section of the realignment will be paved.

Working days and completion date will be set and controlled by the developer. Paving of the realigned Winslow Road has been completed just past the existing Winslow Road.



2016 Winslow Road Reconstruction Project – Rathje Construction - \$994,589.75

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: The project will include the reconstruction of Winslow Road from approximately Para Drive south to Berry's Run Bridge. The project includes the reconstruction of the existing pavement, driveways, storm sewer, sub drain, water main and other associated work. The project will begin in 2016 and will be completed in 2017. During the 2016 construction season, work is expected to last approximately 3-5 months. The project has been split into four stages; complete street closure will occur within each stage of the project and the detour plans can be found on the City's website. Detour signs will also be posted.



The following is an approximate timeline of the four project stages:

Stage A: north side of bridge over Berry's Run to south of the intersection with Hunters Ridge Road [**approx. start date has not been provided**]

Stage B: south of the intersection with Hunters Ridge Road to north of the southern intersection of Hunters Creek Way [**approx. start date has not been provided**]

Stage C: north of the southern intersection of Hunters Creek Way to halfway between Bellboy Drive and Valentine Drive [**early September – approx. 6 weeks**]

Stage D: halfway between Bellboy Drive and Valentine Drive to Para Drive [**July 25 – September**]



Progress Updates: Hand pours and sidewalk/trail paving in Stage C & D remain. Driveways are being poured back today.

The contractor has used approximately 46 of the 135 working days provided; 25% of the contract has been completed. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$750 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of the schedule.

2016 GENERAL PROJECTS UPDATES

2016 35th Street Water Main Relay Project – Phase 1 - Rathje Construction Co., \$69,850

Funding Source: Funded and administrated by the Marion Water Department.

Project Overview: This includes 630 linear feet of new 12-inch water main to be installed from the intersection of 3rd Avenue and 35th Street to 160 35th Street, replacing the existing 8-inch water main.

Progress Updates: The contractor is planning on starting work mid-October.

A change order was submitted for additional work, the new completed by date is now November 23, 2016. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$300 per day will be assessed for each day in excess of the specified completion date.

Armar Drive Extension Project - \$400,000

Project Overview: The project will extend Armar Drive from the existing south end (in Cedar Rapids) to Highway 100. The intersection at Highway 100 has already been constructed and signalized with ARRA Funds.

Progress Updates: The City's Attorney has advised that City move forward with condemnation proceedings. On October 6, 2016 City Council authorized condemnation of certain real property for the Armar Drive Project.



Boyson Road and 10th Street Traffic Study - \$60,000

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: This study will evaluate the need for improvements at the Boyson Road and 10th Street intersection. It is expected that the intersection of Indian Creek Road and 10th Street will also need to be included due to its proximity to the study area.

Traffic volumes, accident rates, congestion levels, and visibility will be studied prior to the selection of a traffic device to solve any related issues. Separate funding will be needed to complete any recommended changes.

2016 Lowe Park Lighting Project – Trey Electric Corporation, \$79,173

Funding Source: LOST funding

Project Overview: This project includes the installation of 6 street lights, 5 dual parking lights, 18 trail bollards, footings, electrical systems, and miscellaneous related work and appurtenances in accordance with the contract documents.



Progress Updates: Work cannot start on this project until the 2016 Lowe Park Parking Lot Project is complete; however, work shall begin no later than April 30, 2017 and be completed within 25 working days. Liquidated damages in the amount of \$100 per day will be assessed for each calendar day in excess of these schedules.

SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT

Staff provides inspection for the development of all subdivisions and commercial sites within the city limits. This work begins with construction plan review and includes field quality control for storm and sanitary sewers, drain tile, Portland cement concrete maturity, grade, air content, slump (water content) and pavement thickness. The City has adopted the latest version of SUDAS (Statewide Design Standards) and utilizes these standards for all subdivision construction.

Subdivision Residential

Authors 4th Addition - Rathje Construction, E & F Paving
Location: East side 35th Street
Water main is being installed.

Bedford Heights – Pirc Tobin Construction
Location: West of Alburnett Road / south of Echo Hill Road
Punch list items remain.

Bowman Meadows 4th Addition – Rathje, E & F
Location: South of Boson Road, west of Alburnett Road
All street paving is complete, intersection are left to be paved.

Bowman Woods Unit 37 - Rathje Construction, E & F Paving
Location: south of East Robins Road, west of Alburnett Road
Work is on hold. They plan on paving next year.

Bridge Creek 4th Addition - Ricklefs Excavating, City Wide
Location: Winslow Road south of Rolling Glen Drive Storm
See Winslow Road Realignment.

Downing Farm 1st and 2nd Addition –
Location: Kettering Road extension, west of Alburnett Road
and north of East Robins Road.
Plans are ready to be approved once the preliminary plat is approved.

Echo Ridge Estates 1st Addition - Pirc Tobin
Location: west side of Alburnett Road, north of Echo Hill Road
Storm sewer is being installed.

Edgebrooke Estates North 1st Addition – Rathje Construction, E & F Paving



Location: extension of Edgebrooke Drive to Vaughn Drive and White Oak Drive to Edgebrooke Drive.

Punch list is being created and will be sent to Rathje.

Gemstone Estates 3rd Addition – Rathje Construction, E & F Paving

Location: extension of Gemstone Drive and connection to Tower Terrace Road via Lennon Lane.

Punch list items remain.

Prairie Hill 17th Addition –

Location: extensions of 50th Street and Prairie Hill Drive, and 28th Avenue.

Plans approved. A preconstruction meeting has not been held yet.

Prairie Ridge Estates 7th Addition – Ricklefs, City Wide

Location: East of Hwy 13 and north of E. Kacena Ave, extension of Crestwood Lane.

Subbase has been laid. Trimming and paving occurred this week.

Prairie Trail 2nd Addition – Rathje, E&F

Location: Oak Park Trail and Prairie Trail extensions on west side of Alburnett Road.

Plans have been approved.

Commercial Sites

APC Emmeret Site Plan (4155 3rd Ave)

A final occupancy certificate has been issued.

Arbor Trails Senior Housing (1362 Blairs Ferry Rd)

Building is under construction.

Arctic Insulation Specialists (Partners Ave)

Site plan reviewed and approved. Site work has not started.

Blairs Ferry Senior Housing (830 Blairs Ferry Rd)

Building is under construction.

Capital Commercial (1204 7th Ave)

The current building permit has expired. It is unknown at this time when reconstruction will begin.

Croell Redi-Mix (600 49th St)

Site under construction.

Electric Specialty Manufacturing (6451 Partners Ave)

A temporary occupancy certificate has been issued.

El Plast Site Plan (Partners Ave)

Site stabilization and punch list items remain.

Hills Bank (3204 7th Ave)

Site under construction.

Hotchkiss Commercial Property (1286 Blairs Ferry Rd)

Building construction continues on Building C; Buildings A & B have been given temporary occupancy.

Integrity Homes Commercial Condos (591 62nd St)

Site work nearly completed.

Former Irwin's Building (1180 7th Ave)

Plans have been approved.

Lebeda Mattress Factory (2525 7th Ave)

Site is under construction, the exterior brick and interior framing has been completed.

Legacy Site Plan (6509 Partners Ave)

Temporary occupancy certificate has been issued.

Linn COOP Expansion (3rd Ave)

Building Department has issued a temporary occupancy certificate.

Linn Mar High School Remodel (10th St)

Site under construction.

MISD-Longfellow Elem (2900 8th Ave)

Site is in the beginning stages of construction.

Marion Public Services Site (3rd Ave)

No additional review was done. Prelim plans have been reviewed in the past.

Moose Properties (44th St)

Construction has started on the proposed “middle” building.

Parks/Schmidt Stonefield (901 Tower Terrace Rd)

Plans have been approved and foundation work has begun.

Platinum Multi-Family (Prairie Hill Drive)

Construction of the site continues.

Platinum Multi-use (29th Ave / Prairie Hill Dr)

Site plan reviewed and comments sent back to Consultant.

Platinum Warehouse (102 35th Street)

Building construction has started.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

As the chairman of the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) it is the City Engineer’s responsibility to coordinate citizen requests regarding traffic concerns and possible changes in signage or traffic regulations. The TAC is comprised of the City Engineer, City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Planning Director, and the Public Services Director. The committee meets when necessary and able to evaluate the requests and make a recommendation to City Council whether the request warrants mitigation. Requests are only accepted in written form (letter or email) and directed to the Mayor and City Council. The City Council then decides if the request is only for information or requires evaluation and referral to the TAC. If review is necessary Council will, by motion, receive and file the item and refer it to TAC.

The TAC evaluates the requests based on several criteria including the following:

- Traffic counts, speed, vehicle type, and overall volumes provided by staff and traffic data collectors,
- Vehicle and pedestrian accident rates provided by the Police Department,
- Site visibility and stopping distances based on engineering standards,
- Emergency vehicle, snow removal, and garbage pickup accessibility,
- General public use verses individual owner needs,
- Input by the requestor and the public.

TAC then uses the criteria to discuss, evaluate, and provide a recommendation to City Council at a regular Council Meeting. The requestor is notified of the date that the report recommendation will be presented and provided a time to address City Council regarding the request. Once Council has acted on the request notice is sent to the requestor and appropriate action is taken by staff.

- **TAC is reviewing the following item:**

- Request for the installation of street signage on Lucre Road and Tower Terrace Road.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- On October 20, 2016 City Council will consider:
 - Engineering does not have any items on the agenda.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- On October 6, 2016 City Council:
 - accepted the 2016 Sidewalk Assessment Project.
 - received and filed and referred to TAC correspondence regarding street signage on Lucre Road and Tower Terrace Road.
 - approved temporary construction easements related to the 2016 Fairview Drive Reconstruction Project.

These are not comprehensive lists of items that City Council will consider taking action on or has taken action on; for a comprehensive list please refer to the upcoming City Council agenda, which can be found at www.cityofmarion.org.

We continue to build an email list, so please forward addresses to me of those wishing to receive this information. Feel free to forward to anyone with interest.

If you have additional questions regarding ongoing projects please address them to my email and I will add them to future reports.

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