

2018 IONA STATE OF THE CITY

In an effort to keep this as short as I can, I will jump right in and highlight what has transpired during the last year. 2018 was a great year for our community.

1. We passed a bond in the fall of 2017 that will allow the City to fix some problems with our water system. The City Council has been very proactive in the design and placement of a new water tank and transmission lines that will greatly fix the issues that have been identified. We also were able to recently procure additional water rights that will augment our existing. Together these actions will benefit the community for generations to come.
2. In February we hired Officer Chris Hinton to the Iona Police Department. He has been a great addition to the team.
3. In July, our City Clerk, Shara Roberts moved to Boise. To replace Shara, we hired Keri West, who has filled some pretty big shoes and Keri has done an admirable job. We are grateful to have Keri!
4. Also in July, we had our annual Iona Day celebration. It turned out to be the biggest and most attended event that anyone can remember. Some 5,500 individuals attended. The addition of a parade was met with great enthusiasm. We learned a lot from this experience. A heartfelt "Thank You!" to all that helped organize and pull off this event.
5. In the fall of 2018, we hired an additional Police Officer to the Department. Officer Dustin Mathie came back to the City. We are excited to have his professionalism back within our community. Today the City has an officer working every day of the week.
6. In 2018, the City as a whole pumped less water than in the previous 3 years. 2018 saw us pumping some 335,701,800 gallons of water, down from 4,446,200 in 2017. Water usage has come down compared to previous years due to environmental conditions, public education and conservation, leak detection and subsequent repairs, and good operating practices. A big shout out to our Public Works Department for jobs well done.

2019 Goals and Challenges for Iona

1. We hope to complete our water system upgrades this year. To date, we just bid the water transmission line to build out and here shortly, award that contract. The water tank hopefully will bid the construction in late February. The Federal Government shutdown is causing us some grief with our timeline, hopefully that will be resolved shortly.
2. The "Freedom Field Estates" subdivision should begin building homes sometime this year.
3. We submitted for an LHTAC Child Pedestrian Grant that would build a walking and biking path to connect Ashwood Acres to the Barnes subdivision. This will greatly improve safety along Denning Avenue for children attending Iona Elementary. We are expecting to receive this grant later this month or early February.
4. Shortly, we will begin preparation for the annual Iona Day event. The City will be seeking individuals again this year for the organization and implementation of this event. So, if you are interested in helping out, please contact Keri West at the City Office.

5. The City Council will continue to identify and fix issues with our City Code. To better serve the specific needs of our community. The Council is a united body to improve our living experience here in Iona.

In closing, I would like to thank the City Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission for their efforts in improving Iona. I would also like to thank the professionals the City employs. We have a fantastic workforce that care deeply for our City. Iona is truly a wonderful community to live in. The future of our City is bright!

Thanks,

Mayor Dan Gubler

* Delivered by Mayor Dan Gubler at the City Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 15th, 2019.