

CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

January 29, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 30th – Downtown Car Cruise In – 3pm – 5pm
- **February 2nd – Joint Workshop of the Planning and Zoning Board along with the Kilgore City Council – 5:30pm**
- **February 9th – City Council Meeting – 5:30pm**

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROJECTS

- The irrigation system that distributes water at the City Park has been completed.
- All benches at the dog park have been installed.
- Police Department roof repairs have been completed.
- Roof inspection is completed at Meadowbrook.
- Experienced two major water main breaks at the same time on January 16th. One on North Street near the City Park and the other on Simmons St. This caused some low pressure and water quality complaints but system was operating as normal by Sunday.
- We have had a rash of street sign damages with 6 being run over and taken in the last week.
- Telematics was installed on most public works and parks vehicles. This system will allow us to better track vehicle usage and provide more information about things like mowing, brush pickup and street sweeping.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Kilgore Fire Department has hired 5 new Firefighters who are scheduled to start work after February 6th. This will help get our staffing close to full capacity.
- The Kilgore Fire Department would like to congratulate our newest Captain, Jovane Rossum, on his promotion.
- The Kilgore Fire Department would like to congratulate our newly promoted Driver/Engineers, Tyler Wallace, Michael Reynolds, and Brian Green.
- The Police Department applied for and received our Certificate on Safe Policing for Communities. The President's Executive Order on Safe Policing, dated June 16, 2020, required departments certifying that our agency met the requirements of the order on certain standards on the use of force.
- KBAD (Kilgore Bulldogs Against Drugs) brought back the drug testing program this month. The former KYSSSED program utilized the local hospital to conduct the drug testing, but the operation of the hospital changed and that was no longer an option. We found an alternate funding source and we've contracted with the same firm that the district uses for UIL purposes. In the past, the random testing within KYSSSED made an impact on drug use in the district and that is our hope too.
- Due to COVID, we had not had a Clergy and Police Alliance meeting in over a year. We were able to meet and social distance last week. We had about 30 persons in attendance. The Police Department gave an overview of our annual reports (Use of Force, Complaints, Racial Profiling, etc).

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- A workshop with the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Council will be held on February 2nd, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to hear a presentation from Freese and Nichols regarding the Kilgore Master Plan, Downtown Master Plan, and the Thoroughfare Master Plan.
- A zoning change request to General Commercial at the old Kilgore College Child Development Center will be heard and a public hearing held at the City Council meeting on February 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
- The Planning Department Staff has been working on an ordinance regarding banners and temporary signage within the city limits and the ordinance will be presented at the February 9, 2021 City Council Meeting.

- Construction continues on major projects around town.
- We have been tracking a pack of coyotes that are traveling the creekways of Bighead and Turkey Creeks. They are a nomadic pack and have been generally moving from Rusk County northward along the waterways. They are acting as wildlife does and Animal Control has no reason to take any action at this time. We request that citizens contact us if they see or hear them so we can follow up with our game cameras and tracking activities.

LIBRARY

- 57 kids have signed up and are participating in our virtual reading incentive program, Wizardry School.
- Our Children’s Room is now open for browsing with safety and social distancing measures implemented.
- So far, six kids have completed the savings challenge and got a roll of coins to save in their piggy banks.

CITY PARK SPLASH PAD WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



CAPA MEETING

