

City of Sheldon
City Council Report for April 1, 2020
Regular Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

7a. City Manager's Report.

- In your packet is a letter being sent in the utility billing regarding the requirement for standardized garbage cans. The new rule is effective July 1, and was requested by the garbage haulers last year. Both haulers plan on additional communication to their customers.
- Dan Robinson has assisted us in setting up a website for community-specific information on the COVID-19 situation. The link is sheldoncovid19.com. Brittany Maassen of SCDC is managing the website for us.
- Our new Chief of Police, Scott Burtch, will be starting on April 6. His formal swearing in will be at the Council meeting on April 15.
- The water rate ordinance is being updated, and we'd hoped to have 1st reading on the April 1 agenda. It remains a work in progress. The increases would be effective on July 1, per recently adopted FY20-21 budget.
- Due to COVID-19, we have suspended our program of updating water meters, and we are limiting entry into homes and businesses unless there is an emergency. We are also not shutting off for non-payment. We are keeping a close eye on further guidance from the League of Cities and the State.
- Thirteen applications were received for the Assistant Pavilion General Manager position. First review of the applications began March 23. Heather Jacobs' resignation is effective on June 1.
- The information for the hearing on the update to the Urban Renewal Plan is linked to the front of the City's website at cityofsheldon.com. The hearing is on April 15. The

“consultation meeting with affected taxing entities” was held March 25; the meeting went well.

- We have the street sweeper running 10-12 hours a day, every day – and on a few Saturdays too. Our goal is to clean up as much sand as possible prior to the end of the parking restrictions on April 1.
- The planning continues for Iowa’s Ride on Friday, July 17. We received this message on March 25:

Our thoughts and prayers are with those that are affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the world.

Our top priority is the safety of the public, our riders, support drivers, volunteers and our staff. Like most other events, we are carefully monitoring the evolving situation.

This week, we had meetings in each of the overnight host towns, as well as several pass-thru towns, that are planning for your summer enjoyment. These committees typically include a multitude of local safety officials including the local hospital personnel, emergency managers, the sheriff’s department and the local police department. We are also working with the Iowa State Patrol that will be with Iowa’s Ride the entire week, keeping riders and support teams safe across the state of Iowa.

Iowa’s Ride is proceeding with plans to host their inaugural event on July 12-18, 2020. The event is still 4 months away, so we will carefully monitor the evolving situation relying on the most current information from various safety agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Again, our top priority is the safety of everyone involved in our inaugural event. If you have questions, please contact us.

Thank you,
TJ Juskiwicz
Iowa’s Ride Director

- Ty Rushing at Iowa Information asked me if I would be willing to submit an editorial on the importance of the census. Here is what I recently submitted to him:

The U.S. Census happens once every 10 years, and the 2020 census is upon us. This timetable is set in the U.S. Constitution. The threat of the COVID19 virus is serious, yet the Census still happens. In 1860, we faced the threat of Civil War. In 1920, we were recovering from WWI and the Spanish Flu. In 1940, there was the threat of WWII, and in 1980 we had the farm crisis. And the census still happened.

Your vote doesn't count at all unless you vote. But even if you do vote, it counts less if you and your neighbors aren't counted in the census. Case in point - Sheldon once had a congressman named William Boies. He lived at 1123 9th St and served from 1919-1929. At the time of his first election in 1918, he was represented Iowa's 11th Congressional district. Today there are only four congressional districts in Iowa.

Being counted is also important in other ways. The census matters more than in elections and voting. Population matters not only for the number of congressional representatives, it affects how state legislative, county and city voting districts are drawn. Grant applications such as Department of Justice Community Policing grants, Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grants, and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are all affected.

Each person in Sheldon, regardless of age, affects the Road Use Tax (Iowa's gas tax) funding formula - as of this year, the presence of each of Sheldon's 5,188 citizens (based on the 2010 census) means \$128 to this fund. The Road Use Tax is used to fund the Sheldon Street Department, and pay for activities such as snow removal, street sweeping and filling potholes. Many federal, state and local funding streams depend on population count.

So take a few minutes today and encourage your everyone you know to respond to the survey recently sent to you in the mail or put on your doorstep: my2020census.gov.

- Angie and I spend a lot of time on putting together the City Council agendas. The result is a good agenda, but the PDF needs to be manually assembled and requires endless scrolling during Council meetings. The attachments are cumbersome and have to this point only been available to the public on request. We are experimenting with a web-based, cloud-based system. The result is an agenda that is much easier to view - with all the attachments available in one place. The result is easier access for the elected officials and media, and much greater access for the general public. We are test-driving the new software, starting with this meeting. The fees are reasonable, and the first three months are free. We'll discuss further on April 1.