Greetings, Cody!

It seems summer has passed us by quickly. School has begun, and many of you will notice the new crossing and traffic arrangement on Big Horn Avenue. The City of Cody, its Urban Systems Committee, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, and Park County School District 6 have established this interim solution while the traffic study is completed. We expect this to be completed sometime next year, which will produce a long-range vision of how the City of Cody will manage the growth and expansion along that entire corridor.

This past summer saw some dramatic flooding events in Yellowstone National Park, which resulted in a closure of the Park, and we’re waiting to see how the overall Park numbers fared because of that—but they will certainly be down from the previous year.

Locally, we also saw some flooding when a late-August thunder storm came through town. This event paralleled the City’s ordinance process as we moved to create a storm water drainage utility fund. Unlike much of our city infrastructure, such as our wastewater (sewer), sanitation, electrical, and water systems, there is no funding source available to pay for our storm water drainage system. Consequently, much of that infrastructure is very old and in need of repair and maintenance. Starting in September, you will notice a $5 per month charge on your regular utility bill for this storm water drainage utility. It is our hope that within a few years there will be enough reserve in this new account to begin the long overdue maintenance of this system.

While September marks the end of the summer months, our tourist season continues to thrive as we look forward to our annual Buffalo Bill Art Show and Sale, as well as our hunting seasons. Please enjoy the weather and get outdoors.

Sincerely,

Matt Hall
Mayor

Are you Red or Blue?

In today’s world, political polarization is feeding on itself. For example, we can easily choose to read and view only information that supports our own opinions. The increased polarization within these “echo chambers” can foster dehumanizing language, increased incivility, and extreme ideas. When considering partisan issues, we have become so divided that we do not trust one another. Thankfully, local government remains nonpartisan. People that might very well be divided on national issues are not necessarily divided on local issues; thus, trust in local government remains high. This is due to a number of factors, including:

1. Local governments rely on relationships, collaboration, and compromise to solve problems and provide services.

2. Local issues are almost exclusively non-partisan.

3. Local government officials try to use their roles to build community trust and strong relationships rather than contribute to bickering.

4. The public is often unaware of the limits of the local government’s authority.

Being nonpartisan will not prevent a local government from confronting controversy or partisan disagreement, but freedom from a partisan environment enhances a local government’s trust within the community and increases its ability to solve issues and provide services.

As a City Administrator, I remain “politically homeless.”

— Barry Cook
City Administrator

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Monday, September 20
Water Policy Special Rate

Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 6 and 20 at 7:00 PM
The Finance Department provides budget and accounting services for the City, including: budget development and implementation; debt administration; collection of delinquent accounts; cash and investment management; accounts payable, billing, and payment processing; bank deposits; fixed asset records; risk management; and financial record keeping and reporting. The Finance Department is also responsible for: coordinating audits; internal control management; and furnishing financial and non-financial information to City officials, the leadership team, employees, and the public.

In addition, Finance staff are responsible for: processing and submitting grant applications for City projects; preparing grant reports and draw-down requests; monitoring compliance with grant requirements; and tracking payments.

The Finance Department also maintains oversight of Municipal Court operations. Municipal Court has jurisdictional authority to arraign and try defendants in the determination of innocence or guilt. The types of cases heard in Municipal Court are violations of the provisions of the City of Cody municipal code and state statutes. Court staff: prepare, schedule, monitor, and supply court case files for the judge; follow up on judgments; prepare arrest warrants; processes restitution and court cost payments; and reports Court decisions on individual cases to other agencies. In addition, court staff collect and account for monies received from fees, fines, and forfeitures.

Leslie Brumage
Finance Officer

About Finance

The Finance Department provides a number of finance-related services, including:

- Budget oversight
- Financial analysis and planning
- Facilitation of annual audit
- Processing of accounts payable/receivable

The Finance Officer provides Council and Department Heads with monthly updates on all City expenditures and revenues to monitor for budget irregularities, as well as provides any necessary and required reports regarding the City's overall financial condition. The Finance Officer also manages the City's cash resources in order to ensure a maximum return on Cody’s assets and funds.

The City of Cody is committed to financial transparency and accountability. Please visit our municipal dashboard, Clearly Cody, for quick and centralized access to the City’s financial information.

Temporary Crosswalk Installed on Big Horn Avenue

A temporary pedestrian crossing has been installed on Big Horn Avenue immediately west of Freedom Street for the start of the new school year. The temporary crossing will be used for testing and data collection for the next several months, and will provide an opportunity for pedestrians to cross Big Horn Avenue during the testing period.