

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: November 25, 2015 Weekly Council Update

Tidewater Drive Closure: Tidewater Drive will close at 9:00 a.m. on Monday November 30th between S. Downey Street and Division Street while that portion of the road is reconstructed as part of the Public Improvements for S. Downey Street and Tidewater Drive. A detour will be provided through the new Casey's location. Contractors provided an updated construction schedule to the City this morning. Due to plan changes adopted to minimize water service disruptions during construction and to provide for a better designed water main to serve properties in the service area into the future, more work will be completed on the water main system in the project area that previously planned. That work is expected to add a few days to the project. We now expect under a good case scenario that the road will be closed for three weeks. Allowing for a few bad weather days, we are still hopeful that the work will be completed and Tidewater will reopen within four weeks.

Traffic will be diverted temporarily into Casey's new entrance on South Downey, east through their parking lot on concrete, then onto gravel past Oasis, then south onto Division for approximately 100 feet before traffic is returned back on Tidewater. The entire detour is approximately 525 feet. Over half of the detour will be concrete. About 25% of the detour is gravel and the remaining portion of the detour travels south on the current surface of Division Street.

The detour will accommodate two-way traffic and jersey barriers will be located along with traffic delineators to outline the path. Rathje Construction will be placing a business sign, visible from the north and south at the Casey's entrance designating the business located on this detour. During this project, the City of West Branch is taking responsibility for snow removal on the temporary road should it become necessary. Inspections of the job site will be conducted by the Public Works Staff multiple times daily to ensure the temporary road is passable for all traffic associated with the businesses located on Division Street and Tidewater Drive.

As previously mentioned, this road project also involves replacement of a water main on Tidewater Drive located between Division Street and Baker Avenue. Every effort has been made in the planning of this water main to minimize shut down of water service for the businesses located in this area. At this time it appears that there will be a short (hopefully no more than 3-4 hours) water service shutdown for Oasis Electric, STS Transportation, The Family Pet Vet and the Days Inn while the new main is tied into the existing main. After the temporary disruption, a boil order will be issued for those affected. Notice will be given to these businesses in advance of the shutdown and they will be notified when the boil order has been lifted.

Letters were hand-delivered to affected businesses this afternoon and copies were also mailed to all businesses in the area. Residents and business owners are encouraged to direct any questions or concerns that they may have during the reconstruction of Tidewater Drive to Public Works Director Matt Goodale at (319) 325- 8213 or directly to me at the City Office at (319) 643-5888.

City Council Joint Work Session with School Board: The next City Council Joint Work Session with the West Branch Community School District Board of Education is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday December 21st, just prior to the regular meeting of the City Council scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Update: The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Tuesday November 24th to continue their discussions concerning an update to the West Branch Comprehensive Plan. The Commission intends to discuss various proposed changes to the Plan, seek public input regarding those changes and eventually present these changes to the City Council for their review. This process is expected to take place over the next 12-24 months.

Chair John Fuller presented statistical updates from the American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing survey published annually as updates to the decennial Census. The updated ACS stats were discussed in relation to Chapter 4 (Community Profile/Character), Chapter 6 (Housing) and Chapter 9 (Transportation). An interesting discussion was had on the peer cities utilized throughout the Comp Plan to compare West Branch with other cities on a variety of topics. Chair Fuller suggested that the Commission might consider comparable population growth, proximity to substantially larger communities, and proximity to major transportation routes when choosing peer cities.

Christmas Past Flyer Now Available: Celebrate the holidays with an old-fashioned Christmas in downtown West Branch. Main Street West Branch, along with the National Park Service and the City of West Branch, are sponsoring A Christmas Past on Friday Dec. 4th and Saturday Dec. 5th. Come join us for horse-drawn carriage rides, street fireplaces, homemade donuts and much more.

The Christmas Past schedule for December 4th and 5th is now available on the City Website at <http://www.westbranchiowa.org/>. One change to this year's celebration will be the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year, Santa Claus will light the Christmas Tree on Heritage Square. The U of I Gold Accappella singers will also be on hand for this year's event. Mark your calendars now for this official kick-off to the Christmas Past event at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening December 4th.

Holiday Trash Schedule: Trash pick-up will be delayed this week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday until Saturday November 28th. City Offices, the Park & Recreation Department and the West Branch Public Library will be closed on Thursday November 26th and Friday November 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.