

Clark City Council hears preliminary water report from Helms and Associates

If one is interested in serving on a government board on the grassroots level, the Clark City Council in 2020 is the available avenue.

During the December meeting of the Clark City Council, Wednesday, city finance officer Jackie Luttrell announced that only councilman Andrew Zemlicka won't be up for re-election in 2020. Everyone else on the council, five seats and the mayor, will be up for election.

Because they were appointed, Terry Schlager in Ward I and Dr. Harvey Spieker in Ward II will be up for one-year terms. The positions of Belinda Hanson, Ward I, Kerry Kline, Ward II and Dennis Larson, Ward III, along with Mayor John Pollock, will be up for three-year terms.

If a municipal election is needed, it will be held the first Tuesday in April. Petitions will be available to be filed in late January, about six weeks from now.

Brandon Smid, a civil engineer with Helms and Associates, Aberdeen, gave a preliminary engineering report regarding Clark's water study. Smid said his company is approximately 70 percent done with the preliminary water/storm sewer survey.

Smid described all water topic elements, with the bottom line being a utility project recommendation, involving water tower upgrades \$259,000; replace pipes, \$8,407,300 and water meter replacement, \$578,000.

Fifty-five percent of water piping in Clark is PVC and that would not be replaced at this time. The AC, asbestos cement and CIP, cast iron pipes, are the two types that need to be replaced.

In his half-hour discussion, the Helms and Associates engineer stated that approximately 30 percent of water is lost and that was a prime reason for this water study.

The next step is for this preliminary engineering report to be completed and then for the city to apply for funding and grant applications.

The city plan could be divided into two halves, as it doesn't have to all be done at once, Smid noted and then he and the council talked of losing water through the meters as well as funding this massive project.

"The price is never going to go down," said Smid "and the state minimum is always going to go up as well." What Smid was referring to, if the council did go ahead with

water projects, water fees would be increased and he put on the screen that the current water fee is \$13.50 and with, for example, at \$5.20/1,000 gallons, 5,000 gallons total, that would be \$26.00, for a total of \$39.50. The state of South Dakota would set a minimum at somewhere between \$50-\$106, depending upon the size of the city water project.

Many water lines, notably in the middle and south part of town are upwards of 100 years old. Council members are very interested in public input, as to how to go forward with the water infrastructure in the city of Clark.

The city council held a twenty-minute executive session to finalize the 2020 salary ordinance. The salary ordinance is contained within the city minutes in this *Clark County Courier* edition. The salary ordinance (#559) was approved, 4-2, prior to adjournment of the meeting. The 2020 salaries are effective January 1, 2020.

Those voting in favor of ordinance #559 were Dennis Larson, Belinda Hanson, Harvey Spieker and Kerry Kline. Voting against this ordinance were Andrew Zemlicka and Terry Schlager.

In other business:

▲ The meeting began with councilman Terry Schlager, acting on behalf of the city, auctioning a three-year lease on city owned ag land. Cody Wookey and Jason McHenry were the high bidders at \$185.00 an acre on 89.13 acres.

▲ Water has been drained away from the Clark Municipal Golf Clubhouse. City employee Eric Brush drilled three outdoor wells at the course to help dry out the clubhouse basement.

▲ City of Clark will be featured in the January edition of the South Dakota Municipal League magazine.

▲ The 2020 Clark Golf Club fees were finalized by the council. A few of the line items went up, minimally.

▲ The city purchased three golf carts, for \$14,000, total.

▲ Luttrell announced that the 2019 budget was under spent, prior to detailing the contingency transfers.

▲ Liquor operating agreements for eight Clark establishments were approved.

▲ The next council meeting will be January 6, 2020.



Alleluia Bell Choir performs at Christmas Concert

The United Methodist Church in Clark was the setting for the Christmas Concert Sunday. Steve Logan, Glacial Lakes Harmonizers, Community Christmas Choir, Trevor Forest and the UMC Alleluia Bell Choir all performed.

The bell choir presented: *The Glory of Christmas, In the Bleak Mid Winter and Hark! The Angels Sing.*

Alleluia Bell Choir members include: front row, left to right, Wanda Bethke, Kimberly Paulson, Janet Hallberg, Gayle Wookey and Annette Helkenn.

From left to right in the back row are, Helen Olson, Robin Brown (partially hidden), Pat Seefeldt, Diane Spieker and Karen Arthur.

Clark Courier Christmas edition to be published next week

With Christmas on a Wednesday this year, the *Clark County Courier* Christmas Greetings edition with Christmas greetings from many area businesses will be put together a day earlier.

The paper will 'be put to bed' on Monday afternoon, a day earlier than usual, so it can be delivered to all county subscribers on Christmas Eve day, December 24. It also will be available for counter sales on Tuesday.

The same thing will occur for New Years one week later. The New Years paper will be out on Tuesday, December 31.

WEATHER			
Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer			
	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 10	13	-4	0
Dec. 11	9	-7	0
Dec. 12	11	-6	0
Dec. 13	19	6	0
Dec. 14	27	-3	0
Dec. 15	11	-4	0
Dec. 16	20	11	0
2019 precipitation to date	37.14		
2018 precipitation to date	18.00		



Clark High School Christmas concert was Thursday

The Clark High/Middle School Christmas concert was held Thursday, December 12, at the Clark High School gym. Lola Bartels is the instrumental instructor and Amy Nelson is the vocal instructor.

Students in grades 5-12, in both band and choir performed traditional and familiar Christmas carols.

Above, the combined (7-12) choir sings *Mary, Did You Know?*

Worship services in the area will celebrate Christmas

With a new fallen snow comes a stillness one may notice when outdoors. As the snowflakes stack up with spaces left between them, sounds are unable to bounce off of the snow as easily and according to meteorologists, the snow does a great job of absorbing sound. So amidst all the busyness and chaos of the world and its pre-Christmas season, maybe out of doors where the world tends to quiet down would be a good place to ponder Psalm 46:10 - Be still and know - that I am God.

Ponder his wonderful gift to us and celebrate the Saviors birth with others, singing praises in song and joining others in fellowship at the church of your choice.

Worship services in our area include:

In Clark, at the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, a Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be held at 6:00 p.m. on December 24 with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

In Raymond, commissioned ruling elders will lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:00 p.m. on December 24.

In Clark at Peace Lutheran Church, Pastor Randy Bader will lead the 9:00 a.m. service of scripture and song on December 25. Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Raymond will join them for their Christmas Day service.

At St. Paul Lutheran, the Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service with communion will be held at

6:00 p.m. The service will be led by Pastor Mindy Ehrke.

At the United Methodist Church in Clark, Pastors Mark and Joy Tracy invite all to the Christmas Eve Candlelight service held on the 24th at 3:00 p.m.

At St. Michael Church in Clark, a Nativity of the Lord Christmas Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. on December 25 Christmas Day.



In Garden City at the United Methodist Church, Pastor Joy Tracy and members of the congregation will celebrate Christmas with an evening Christmas Eve service to be held at 5:00 p.m.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will have the Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Sunday School program at 6:00 p.m. on December 24.

At the Lake Gospel Church in Willow Lake, Pastor Steven Johnson will host a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:00 p.m. on December 24 with a bell choir to

perform during the service.

Pastor Randy Bader invites members to the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church for the Christmas Eve children's service at 6:00 p.m.

At the Prairie Star Lutheran parish served by Pastor Bryan Taffe and synodically authorized minister Colin Beveridge their schedule for Christmas Eve services are: 5:30 p.m. for Grace Lutheran in Willow Lake; 5:30 p.m. for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant; 4:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna and 4:00 p.m. at the Good Hope Lutheran Church between Clark and Willow Lake.

In Bryant, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Father Richard Baumberger will officiate at a

6:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil worship on Christmas Eve, December 24.

In Henry, at St. Henry Catholic Church, the Nativity of the Lord Christmas Mass will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24, led by Father Dan Smith.

In the Crocker and Bradley area, the Crocker Lutheran Church will be hosting the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion at 4:00 p.m. with Minister Marion Grimes officiating.

Enjoy the holiday with those you love this Christmas.



The Grinch makes an appearance at Lighted Parade

Over 22 vehicles, including The Grinch, Max and the Boy from Whoville took part in the Willow Lake Lighted Parade, Friday, at Willow Lake.

The 4th Annual Lighted Parade was a big event. Look for more pictures from this event in next week's *Courier*.