

City Administrators Report

October 8-22, 2025

CIP Planning

All of the department heads recently met to review plans and priorities for the upcoming year, and there is a great deal of exciting work ahead. The discussion focused on both infrastructure improvements and community enhancement projects that will continue to strengthen the city's growth and quality of life. One of the key focuses for the coming year will be road improvement projects on Lincoln Highway, E Avenue, and N Avenue. Fortunately, the existing infrastructure in these areas is in good overall condition, which allows us to move forward with slip lining rather than full reconstruction. The materials under consideration for this process include steam-cured and UV-cured linings, both of which will extend the lifespan of the lines by an additional 30 to 50 years. We also spent time discussing next steps for the smoke testing program. The testing has identified that a majority of the inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues originate from the trunk line along the creek, particularly around the manholes. Our plan moving forward is to focus repair efforts on this area to improve system performance and reduce I&I. In addition to infrastructure projects, we are also turning attention to several parks and recreation improvements, including the splash pad project and planned upgrades at Hattery and Harrington Parks. Enhancements at Harrington Park will include development of the dog park, installation of additional disc golf holes, and the creation of a walking path, with future trail connections also being considered. Overall, it's shaping up to be a busy and productive year, with projects that will enhance both the city's infrastructure and the amenities that make Nevada such a great place to live.

ARPA Review

We recently completed our annual ARPA review with the county. A few years ago, the county provided the City with \$100,000 in federal ARPA funds to support infrastructure improvements along D Avenue. Because these funds originated from the federal government, the county is required to ensure that all recipients submit quarterly reports and participate in an annual review meeting to discuss project progress and compliance. Since the D Avenue project has been completed, this year's review was relatively brief, and everything went very smoothly. Overall, the county was satisfied with the City's documentation and project outcomes. Looking ahead, due to the combination of ARPA funds received directly by the City and the additional funds provided by the county, we will be required to undergo a Single Audit next year. A Single Audit is a detailed and comprehensive examination of a non-federal entity's financial statements and its compliance with federal program requirements. This audit is mandated when a municipality or organization expends more than \$1,000,000 in federal funds within a fiscal year.

Resource Recovery Center

The City of Ames has announced plans to retire its existing waste-to-energy system and construct a new Resource Recovery and Recycling Campus. This modern facility will be designed to receive, process, and transport solid waste for final disposal while also expanding recycling and waste diversion capabilities. To support this transition, Ames has acquired approximately 9.5 acres along Freel Drive to house the new operation. Once completed, the facility will serve as a centralized location where both commercial and residential haulers can deliver solid waste, recyclable materials, household hazardous waste, and organic materials, including yard waste. As part of this operational shift, all processed waste will be hauled to the

Carroll County Landfill, marking a transition from the current disposal site at the Boone County Landfill. Ames has entered into a 20-year agreement with Carroll County, effective July 2027, to handle this long-term waste management arrangement. Because this project involves the construction of a new site and expanded infrastructure, there will be associated costs. The per-capita fee will remain at \$10.50 throughout the 20-year agreement period. However, the tipping fee will increase from the current rate of \$75 per ton to \$95.11 per ton once the new system becomes operational. The reason for highlighting these changes is that the City of Ames has requested that the City of Nevada consider adopting a revised 28E Agreement to align with the new waste management structure. Our current 28E Agreement with Ames remains in effect until 2034, but revisions will likely be necessary to reflect the operational and contractual updates associated with the new Resource Recovery and Recycling Campus.

Health Insurance Meeting

As discussed during our last meeting, City Hall was closed for the hours previously approved by the council. The closure and related activities went smoothly, and the overall process was well-received. Additionally, as noted in my previous report, the financial impact we anticipated has significantly improved. Instead of the initially projected 25% increase, we will now see a much more manageable 2.44% increase. This positive outcome reflects the effectiveness of our discussions and planning efforts to partially fund our health insurance.

Budget Training

We recently spent about an hour working with our new financial software to review the process for entering and updating budget information. The training session went smoothly and provided a good opportunity to become more familiar with the system's features and workflow. Overall, the software appears to be user-friendly and efficient, offering a clear and organized approach to managing budget data. I believe it will significantly improve accuracy and streamline the process for staff when preparing and entering future budgets.

Treatment agreement

As noted in previous reports, we had been awaiting guidance from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the requirements for Verbio and whether a formal treatment agreement would be necessary. The DNR has since responded, indicating that Verbio will be reclassified as a "significant user" rather than a "categorical user." With this change in designation, Verbio will be exempt from submitting Baseline Monitoring Reports, which simplifies their reporting obligations under DNR regulations. When the DNR spoke with Devin, they did not suggest that any additional agreements would be required at this time. However, because significant users typically are required to have a treatment agreement in place, separate from any existing agreements, I have asked Devin to follow up with the DNR for further clarification. This will ensure that all regulatory expectations are clearly understood and that the City remains in full compliance with state requirements moving forward.

8th Street Bridge

We have continued working closely with JEO Engineering on the planned rehabilitation of the 8th Street Bridge. The project has been progressing well, and we are now at the stage of updating the project scope. At this time, the current contract outlines the project as a reconstruction, so we will need to revise the documentation to reflect the change in direction toward rehabilitation. Once those updates are completed, the revised documents will be submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) for review and approval. This adjustment will ensure that the project scope, budget, and compliance requirements are properly aligned with the intended rehabilitation work moving forward.

Splashpad

We now have the final design for the splash pad, which marks an exciting milestone in the project. The design captures many of the features and amenities we were hoping for and will provide a fun and inviting space for families and children to enjoy. The overall cost, however, came in slightly higher than originally anticipated. While this was not unexpected given current construction and material prices, we are exploring several grant opportunities that could help offset a portion of the expenses and bring the project cost closer to our original estimates. We're optimistic that, with the right funding support, we can move forward with a high-quality splash pad that stays within a reasonable budget while still meeting the community's expectations.

CDBG

The bids for the historian, lead, and asbestos assessments have been reviewed and scored, and the results will be presented to the City Council for approval at the upcoming meeting. These assessments represent Tier Two of the Environmental Study, which is a critical phase in evaluating the site's historical significance and identifying any potential environmental hazards. Completing this stage will allow us to move forward with a clearer understanding of any remediation or preservation requirements before future development or rehabilitation work begins. This is an important step in ensuring that the project complies with all environmental and historical preservation standards.

Our Nevada

All of the partners contributing to the *Our Nevada* magazine recently met to discuss plans for next year's publication schedule and distribution. The meeting was productive, with everyone sharing ideas and confirming their continued commitment to the project. The best news is that there will be no need to increase the financial contributions from any of the participating entities. This means we can maintain the current level of support while continuing to produce and distribute a high-quality magazine that highlights community stories, local events, and important updates for residents. The group expressed enthusiasm for another successful year of collaboration and is looking forward to keeping *Our Nevada* a valuable and engaging resource for the community.

Monthly Meetings

Rotary
ARPA
Alliance
P&R Goal Setting
Employee Meeting
CIP



STAFF MEETING AGENDA

Monday, October 20, 2025 @ 9:00 A.M

No meeting due to Health Insurance meeting