

## **City Administrators Report**

December 4, 2025-January 8, 2026

### **Safety Meeting**

We held our monthly staff meeting this past week, and the primary focus of the discussion was recognizing and responding to drug and alcohol use in the workplace. Staff reviewed what signs and behaviors to watch for, and we talked through the appropriate steps to take if there is concern that someone may be impaired. This could involve a City employee or potentially a member of the public who comes into one of our facilities. We also covered who to speak with and how to report concerns professionally and responsibly to ensure the safety of everyone involved. In addition, we discussed overdose awareness and response procedures, including how to assist and what actions to take if an overdose were ever to occur on City property or within one of our buildings. The session was led by Josh from the Police Department, who is a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and has extensive knowledge and experience in this area. His guidance helped provide clear information and practical direction for staff. Overall, it was a very informative and valuable session, and employees were engaged throughout the discussion. Staff asked several thoughtful questions and participated actively, which helped reinforce the importance of being prepared and knowing the proper steps to take if an issue ever arises.

### **Verbio**

I met with representatives from Verbio to review and discuss their current operational limits and compliance requirements. During the meeting, Verbio requested an increase to their existing limits; however, this is not something we are able to approve or accommodate. This topic was discussed with Verbio prior to the construction of the plant, and at that time, they confirmed that the limits currently on file would be sufficient to support their planned operations. Additionally, during a site visit conducted by the DNR in June 2025, Verbio was again asked whether they would be able to remain within their established limits. At that time, they reiterated that staying within those limits would not be an issue. Since then, Verbio has acknowledged that they are currently exceeding or approaching those limits and has been working on identifying and implementing operational adjustments to bring their process back into compliance with what is allowed under their existing approvals. They continue to explore solutions to ensure they can meet the required limits moving forward.

### **Harrington Improvements**

Rhonda and I have been meeting with WHKS to discuss a variety of potential improvements and long-term enhancements for Harrington Park. These proposed upgrades include the addition of walking paths, expanding the disc golf course with additional holes, and developing a designated dog park area. While these are all exciting possibilities, it is important to note that the improvements would be planned and implemented over time and would not be completed all at once. Currently, the City has included funding in the budget for two specific items: the dog park and a walking path along the south side of Harrington Park. This walking path would function as a sidewalk and is anticipated to be incorporated into the Lincoln Highway reconstruction project as part of the overall redevelopment work in that area. As plans and concepts continue to develop, Rhonda will coordinate with WHKS to finalize the proposed layout and details. Once everything is ready, she will present the plans and supporting information to the full City Council for review and discussion.

### **Drainage Pipe**

The City and County have been working collaboratively to identify a long-term solution to the ongoing drainage issues along West 18th Street. During significant rainfall events, especially those experienced last season, the west side of the roadway and several adjacent properties have been prone to flooding. These high-water events have created repeated concerns for residents and have highlighted the need for improvements to the drainage system in that area. To address the situation, Joe, Ryan, and I met with County representatives to discuss cost-sharing options for the necessary repairs. Although the drainage water originates from the County, the affected stormwater pipe now falls under the City's responsibility because the area has been annexed into City limits and the pipe discharges into a City retention pond. However, because the collapsed pipe was not included in the original reconstruction plans for West 18th Street, the County acknowledged that this is a unique circumstance and agreed they would be willing to contribute toward the cost of the project. We have already spoken with one contractor and are continuing to reach out to additional contractors to obtain multiple estimates. At this time, the estimate we received is above the City's purchasing threshold, which would require the project to be formally bid out. The current bid threshold is \$65,000. If we are able to secure estimates below that amount from other contractors, we may be able to proceed more quickly and complete the project sooner, without having to follow the longer formal bidding process. The good news is that we do have a workable solution identified. The proposed fix involves installing a longer pipe extension, which will allow us to bypass the gas pipelines located within the right-of-way. This approach should help avoid conflicts with existing utilities while still resolving the drainage issues and reducing the likelihood of future flooding along the west side of West 18th Street.

### **SS4A**

In June, the City submitted a joint application for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant. The review process took longer than expected to receive a response, largely due to delays caused by the government shutdown. We have since received official notification that our application was not selected for funding. MIPA is currently reaching out to the awarding agency to request additional information and clarification on the decision, including any feedback on our application. This will help us better understand why the project was not awarded and identify opportunities to strengthen any future submissions.

### **Splashpad**

After additional discussions with the Mayor, a decision was made not to move forward with the splashpad project at this time. Instead, the focus will shift toward identifying and implementing improvements to the City pool. This approach will allow us to invest in upgrades that enhance an existing facility and better address current needs and priorities. We still plan to move forward with removing the sand in both designated areas; however, the overall plans will be adjusted, particularly regarding the sand volleyball area. While the sand will be removed as originally discussed, the City will re-evaluate what the best use of that space will be moving forward and determine what improvements or alternative features would be most beneficial. Rhonda will continue researching options, gathering additional information, and exploring potential improvements related to the pool and surrounding areas. Once that research is complete and more details are available, she will prepare and present a formal proposal for review by both the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Board.

### **Finance Director**

Before Christmas break, we conducted interviews with several applicants for the Finance Director position. We had a strong pool of candidates and were pleased with the quality of

applicants who participated in the interview process. I am happy to share that we have extended an offer to one of the candidates, and he has accepted the position. He is scheduled to begin in February, and we look forward to welcoming him to the City and having him join our leadership team.

#### **ICAP**

We completed our ICAP Risk Assessment last week. Overall, the assessment went very well, and everything was found to be in good working order. The ICAP representative reviewed our current buildings, facilities, and equipment, and they did not identify any significant issues or concerns. At this time, there are no recommended corrective actions, and ICAP expressed confidence in our current conditions and safety practices.

#### **ALMACO**

I have been working with ALMACO regarding new regulatory requirements from the EPA and the DNR associated with the startup of our new plant. We have now received direction from the DNR on the next steps, and as a result, there are several actions that will need to be implemented in order to meet the required testing standards for TTOs. The DNR's guidance outlines specific requirements that will need to be in place to properly conduct the testing; however, we have also discussed potential options that could reduce or limit the amount of required testing if certain additional controls are implemented. These measures would help ensure compliance while also making the process more manageable and efficient. We are currently working through the details of what will be required and what additional steps can be taken to meet the intent of the regulations. There is a deadline of June to have these items completed and fully implemented. ALMACO has indicated they are confident they will be able to put the necessary factors and processes in place in time to meet the required timeline and remain in compliance with both EPA and DNR expectations.

#### **PFAS**

Included on the agenda is the agreement to enter into the PFAS litigation that we discussed during our December meeting. Erin has reviewed the proposed agreement to ensure there are no legal concerns, procedural issues, or important details that we may be overlooking prior to taking action. Based on preliminary information provided by the legal firm, if the City were to qualify for the litigation and ultimately receive compensation, the estimated settlement award would likely fall in the range of approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000. However, as noted in my November report, it remains unclear whether the City would meet the eligibility criteria required to participate. When our wells were tested previously, the PFAS levels were extremely low, well below the levels typically associated with this type of litigation, which may limit or completely exclude the City from qualifying for settlement funds. It is also important to note that if the City were to receive compensation through a settlement, the agreement requires that one-third of the total award be paid to the attorneys as reimbursement for their work and representation in the case. This fee would only apply if the City receives a settlement award; there would be no attorney fees owed if no compensation is received. If the City approves the contract and moves forward, the legal firm handling the litigation would arrange for a third-party company to complete updated PFAS testing on all City wells at no cost to the City. The results of this additional testing would determine whether we qualify for participation and whether entering into the lawsuit would be beneficial for the City.

#### **Trunk Line Stilling Structure**

We continue to receive reports and observe ongoing odor issues coming from the stilling structure located along S-14. In response, we have ordered an upgraded odor-control filter that is

significantly larger and more robust than the unit that was originally designed and is currently in place. To put the difference in perspective, the new filter is approximately the size of a 55-gallon drum, whereas the existing filter is much smaller, closer in size to a typical residential sump pump. The larger filter intends to provide increased capacity and improved odor control, which we expect will help reduce the odor concerns residents have been noticing in that area. We have been actively following up with the company to confirm the shipping status and expected delivery date. Initially, we were told the filter would arrive within 2–3 weeks, which would have placed delivery in mid-December. However, we have not received a confirmed update from the vendor, and as of now, the filter has still not arrived. The company we ordered from is based in Canada, which may be contributing to delays. In the meantime, Devin has continued to flush the lines frequently in that area as a temporary measure. This effort is intended to help reduce or eliminate odor buildup while we wait for the upgraded filter to arrive and be installed. We will continue monitoring the situation closely and will provide updates as soon as the new filter is delivered and installed.

#### **Access Control**

We have received two quotes so far for the replacement of the City's access control system at City Hall, the Police Station, and the Water Plant. As discussed in a previous meeting, our current system, Brivo, has been in place since City Hall was constructed in 2008 and is managed through Johnson Controls. We were recently notified that the existing system will no longer be supported beginning in February, which creates an immediate need to transition to a new platform. In addition, we have already started to experience operational issues with the current system, further reinforcing that replacement is both necessary and time-sensitive. To ensure we choose the most reliable and cost-effective option for the City's long-term needs, we have been working with and collecting proposals from multiple vendors. This approach will allow us to compare pricing, service capabilities, support availability, and system features before moving forward with a final recommendation.

#### **CDBG**

Next week, lead-based paint and asbestos testing will begin as part of the preparation work for the CDBG project. This testing is a required step to confirm existing conditions and ensure the project is completed in compliance with all applicable safety and environmental regulations. Also included on the agenda is a contract for the project Historian. The Historian will assist with completing the necessary documentation and reporting required as part of the grant process, including records related to the project scope, compliance requirements, and historical information as applicable. Once the lead and asbestos testing and the Historian services are fully completed, we will move forward with preparing the remaining project documentation and final bid materials. At that point, we will be in a position to proceed with bid letting and begin the next phase of the project.

#### **Ames Resource Recovery**

At our last Council meeting, I was asked to contact Marshall County and Hardin County to inquire about their current pricing and to determine whether they would allow the City to discharge our waste at their facilities, should the Council decide to pursue that option. After reaching out to both counties, the primary question they have at this stage is the estimated tonnage they would be receiving from the City. I have now gathered those figures and provided them as needed. I have followed up with Hardin County, and the County Supervisor indicated that he does not anticipate this being a problem. However, he needs to confirm with the full Board before providing a definitive answer. I have also attempted to contact Marshall County

multiple times to begin the same conversation, but I have not yet received a response. I will continue reaching out and will provide an update to Council as soon as I hear back from them.

**Monthly Meetings**

IAMU  
NEDC  
Alliance  
Mainstreet  
Rotary  
Foundation  
PPL



**STAFF MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, January 5, 2026 @ 9:00 A.M**

- i. CDBG- Historian/Lead/Asbestos
- ii. Access Control
- iii. Splashpad
- iv. SS4A
- v. Decommission- 1<sup>st</sup> phase of testing
- vi. W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street drainage
- vii. Finance Director
- viii. Internet Services
- ix. Oak Park Trail
- x. Housing Development
- xi. Resource Recovery Center
- xii. WWTP
- xiii. Ordinance Changes/Fee Appendix

# NEVADA PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

1209 6<sup>th</sup> Street – P.O. Box 530 Nevada, Iowa 50201 Tele: 515-382-4593



**Chris Brandes**  
Public Safety Director  
Chief of Police

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Chris Brandes, Public Safety Director/Chief of Police  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026  
**Ref:** Report for City Council Meeting for Monday, January 12, 2026

## Staffing

Officer Ryan Hutton is working as a full time status currently. This returns our department to full staffing levels, marking the first time we were fully staffed since December 2023.

Officer Kellan Sydnes has provided a 4-week notice of resignation. Officer Sydnes has been on the department for 5 years and primarily has worked afternoon shift. Officer Sydnes has accepted a position with Flathead County, Montana as a Deputy Sheriff. Officer Sydnes's family has had the desire to move to Montana for several years now.

Officer Joseph Meyer has been stateside for a military training from August 2025 to January 2026. Officer Meyer will participate in several weeks of FTO training in January to ensure he has retained the training he prior to his military training and then transition to solo patrol in February.

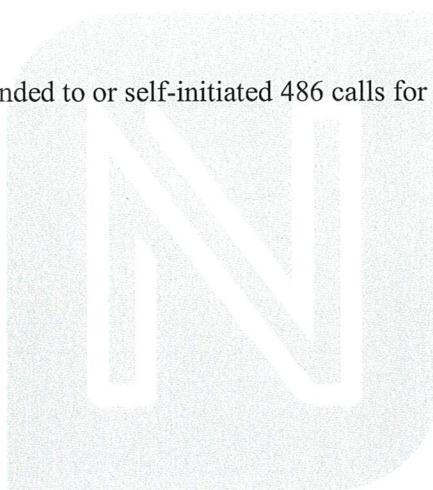
CSO Pritchard remains out of the office on medical leave.

## Activity

The police department has either responded to or self-initiated 486 calls for service in the month of December.

*Highest number of calls listed below:*

Traffic Stops: 154  
General Info: 68  
Medical Assists: 31  
Animal Call: 24  
Suspicious Person: 21  
Motorist Assists: 19  
Motor Vehicle Accident/Crash: 14  
Welfare Checks: 13  
Reckless Driving: 10



Respectfully submitted,

Chris Brandes  
Public Safety Director  
Chief of Police

# NEVADA PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

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**Chris Brandes**  
Public Safety Director  
Chief of Police

TO: Chris Brandes, Public Safety Director  
FROM: Ray Reynolds, Director of Fire and EMS  
DATE: January 2, 2026  
REF: Activity report for Trustees, City Council and Honorable Mayor.

Calls to date in Dec. 2025: 822  
Calls to date same time last year (2024): 775

Fires for Dec. 2025: 2  
EMS for Dec. 2025: 51  
Good intent for Dec. 2025: 15  
Community events for Dec. 2025: 5

## Membership:

Current roster number of members: 45

Bella Maser is an ISU student originally from Williamsburg. She works as a patient care tech at the Boone hospital and wants to become a physician assistant.

Phoenix Gryp is an ISU student from Williamsburg. She participated in wrestling and placed at the state tournament.

Devin Ikeda is an ISU student from Fairfax. He was a member of the Fairfax fire department and is in the process of testing as an EMT.

Qinn Miller is an ISU student from Marengo. He also works at the Boone Hospital as a phlebotomy tech and ER tech.

\*ISU students who live in Ames are required to complete 8-12 station hours per month to meet their commitment. Since they live in Ames, it is not practical to drive to Nevada during a call. Their station hours help support staffing at our firehouse.

## Delay or Minimal Staffing on Calls

12-2-25 4:11 pm **Two-vehicle crash with an infant reported as needing checked (1 F/T and 2 volunteers responding)**

## 2025 Annual Fire & EMS Activity Report

Nevada Fire & EMS | Nevada, Iowa

Overview



In 2025, Nevada Fire & EMS continued to provide comprehensive emergency services with a strong emphasis on life safety, emergency medical response, fire suppression, and community risk reduction. The department experienced a high volume of EMS activity, limited fire loss, no civilian fire fatalities, and strong training participation by its members. Day time response coverage remains a significant issue as many times there are only two retired members and myself available for most calls. Coverage between 6:45 am and 4:00 pm is not adequately staffed by volunteers as most work out of town are are not able to leave their full-time employment.

### Fire Activity Summary

The department responded to 29 fire incidents during the year, resulting in zero civilian fire deaths and one civilian injury. Total estimated fire-related property loss was \$45,066.

## Residential Fires

4 residential structure fires 0 civilian fatalities 1 civilian injury \$23,005 in estimated property loss

\*The most significant residential fire occurred at a single-family dwelling, accounting for the highest property loss and the only reported civilian injury.

## Other Fire Incidents

13 brush/grass/wildland fires (\$10,011 loss)

3 highway vehicle fires (\$12,050 loss)

6 additional structure fires in apartments, healthcare, and industrial occupancies with no reported injuries or losses

Outside fires no value: 4 incidents

## Emergency Medical & Other Responses

526 EMS and rescue responses

188 other service calls (smoke investigations, lock-outs, animal rescues, assistance calls)

22 hazardous condition responses

49 false alarm responses

\*Emergency medical and rescue calls remain the department's primary workload.

## False Alarm Trends

Unintentional activations: 24

System malfunctions: 21

Other false alarms: 3

Malicious false calls: 1

\*These incidents continue to highlight the importance of alarm system maintenance and public education.

## Firefighter Safety

1 firefighter injury reported in 2025. Injury occurred on the fireground and was related to overexertion with respiratory distress. No lost-time injuries were reported

## Training & Readiness

Department members completed 2,242 hours of training in 2025, averaging 46.7 hours per member.

\*Training focused on emergency medical care, fireground operations, safety, and professional development, ensuring members remain prepared for all-hazards response.

## Key Highlights

\*No civilian fire fatalities

\*EMS calls continue to dominate overall response volume

\*Residential fire losses remain relatively low

\*Strong training commitment supports safe, effective operations

\*False alarms remain a significant demand driver

### **Rural Township Responses**

#### **Grant**

EMS: 26  
FIRE: 27

#### **Milford**

EMS: 24  
FIRE: 17

#### **Richland**

EMS: 22  
FIRE: 6

#### **Nevada**

EMS: 19  
FIRE: 19

160 calls total

19.4% of all calls are rural



The Nevada Street Department has been working on.

1. Snow removal
2. Streets vehicle repair
3. City vehicle maintenance
4. Hydrant repair on 10<sup>th</sup> an E Ave
5. One calls
6. Working on street marker signs
7. Pot hole patching
8. Various sign installs
9. Assisting other departments as needed

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# January 12th / 2026

## Water Pollution Control Council Report

- Regular operation, monitoring & maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant, lift stations, and remote flow basin.
  - The Nevada Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements are substantially completed and all processes are operational.
- Majority of Bio-Solids from the Old Facility Storage Tank have been hauled out and land applied.
- New Facility Passed Annual Toxicity Test
- Annual Industrial Inspection was conducted: No issues found upon inspection.
- UV Proficiency Testing is in process of scheduling
- Ongoing Punch list work being logged and completed at Phase 2.
- Final Completion of Phase 3 walkthrough inspection.
  - Ongoing Warranty Work Orders completed as assigned.

January 2026

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Rhonda Maier, Director of Parks and Recreation

Re: Monthly Information Report



- Completed Work/Accomplishments
  - Continued work on the budget.
  - GIS iPad purchased.
  - Legends fundraiser, raised \$10,000 for continued development of the Nevada Legends softball program.
  - Various equipment repairs and maintenance.
  - CIRL 5-6 Grade Basketball End of Year Tournament
  - CIRL Baseball and Softball meeting
  - Finished installing TrussCore at Field House
  - Finalized spring and summer programs, swim season, events and activities
- Items Currently Working On/Gathering Information
  - Harrington Park Master Plan and Potential Grant Funding
  - Hattery Park renovation
  - Pool vacuum purchase
  - Adopt a flower bed/community beautification program
  - Trail signage update
  - Pizza Pie Looza
  - Angels In The Outfield
- Field House Yearly Report
  - Currently at 2,464 active memberships
  - 39,073 check in's, an average of 108.84/day (usage does not include everyday programs, such as games, practices, misc activities, rentals and special events)
  - 1150 Turf Reservations
  - 522 Court Reservations
  - 61 Playground Reservations
  - 20 Multi-Purpose Area Reservations
  - 23 Partial Track Reservations

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 515-382-4352 or by email at [nevadarecreation@gmail.com](mailto:nevadarecreation@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued support of Nevada Parks and Recreation.