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Elko New Market is 10!

The merger of the cities of Elko and New Market that became official on January 1, 2007 may have seemed intimidating on the surface: New Market was largely a German Catholic population whereas Elko was Scandinavian Lutherans. Despite their proximity, the two towns had unique cultures. Even today, 10 years later, long-time residents continue to refer to the former communities separately.

Kent Hartzler, who served as the last mayor of Elko and the first mayor of Elko New Market, recalled a bit of leering: “People needed to see there wasn’t an evil empire on the other side of the road. The profiles of the cities, the cultures, were different.”

But the merits of a merger were compelling. Dramatic long-term costs savings could be realized through the consolidation of duplicative services, equipment, staff and elected bodies, particularly as the area increased in population and more services were needed. Both cities had city administrators and part-time city clerks. There was only one public works maintenance person working part-time for both Elko and New Market. The cities shared the wastewater system, contracts for services and the same attorney. And there was already a cooperative spirit – New Market provided fire services to the area and Elko provided weekend police service. Representatives from each City served on a joint sewer board, which operated the cities wastewater system.

“A lot of people saw a merger as a natural progression,” Hartzler, who continues to serve the city on the Planning Commission, said. “It just made sense – it was a no-brainer. We were doing more and more stuff together anyway.”

A working group of elected officials and staffs from both Elko and New Market first met to discuss the merger in October of 2004. After that, the Councils met regularly to study the possibility of merger.

The study found greatest benefits of the merger were expected to be long-term, providing the best services at a lower cost by eliminating duplication of personnel, equipment and facilities. Mailings, town hall meetings and general about-town buzz educated residents to the merits of the merger leading up to the special referendum in March of 2006. The merger was approved by 84% of those voting.

After approval of merger, the working group began the process of melding two into one. A joint city council governed until the first mayor and council for the combined community were elected in the November 2006 General Election and took office in January 2007. The biggest hurdles came when combining the utility billing systems and creating a single set of ordinances. Sandra Green, former Deputy Clerk for New Market and now the City Clerk for Elko New Market stated, “Implementation of a combined utility billing system and city code, proved to be more of a challenge than was originally anticipated. However, our residents were great in working with us through that transition period.”

There were, however, immediate and measurable benefits realized in 2007. The tax rate for both former Elko and New Market taxpayers dropped and in subsequent years saw everyone’s taxes rise less than the rate of inflation. Additionally, the combined city’s budget dropped dramatically from pre-merger budgets. While the merged city expanded police, parks and recreation, and public works services, the overall actual expenditures decreased by \$60,000 from 2006 to 2007, and another \$82,000 in 2008 and \$10,000 in 2009. Merger-related expenditures, such as staff and consultant time, totaled approximately \$200,000.

“Even using conservative estimates, the actual

(Continued on page 2)

Elko New Market is 10! Continued



cost savings, combined with the additional revenues received from 2007 through 2009 that were attributable to the merger, equaled or exceeded the cost of the merger,” said City Administrator Thomas Terry, who was the first city administrator for New Market and the first city administrator for the merged city, helped shepherd the cities through the merger process. “Generally, the city has increased services and improved the city’s financial position with a limited tax impact since the merger.”

The working group had a brief discussion about the name of the merged city. Elko New Market was chosen for several reasons:

1. Both of the existing cities would be

represented in the combined name

2. Residents would not vote for or against the merger if they liked or didn’t like the new name offered

For the cost savings, the tax impact and the increased services and programming offered, the merger has been a success. The city was named a Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Innovation Award Winner and a League of Minnesota Cities City of Excellence Award Winner for the merger and is often looked to as a model for other cities considering a merger.

Mayor & Councilmembers Take Oath of Office

In January, Mayor Bob Crawford and three Councilmembers who were elected or re-elected in November took their oath of office. The full City Council, comprised of the Mayor and four Councilmembers, work closely with City staff to deliver a high level of service in a fiscally responsible manner and positively shape the future of the City.

In a single year, your elected officials attend many meetings, pour over piles of reports, field many emails and calls from residents, and collectively make countless decisions about City administration, policies, ordinances, zoning, licensing and budgets.

In addition to serving on the Council, the Mayor and Councilmembers also act as members of the Economic Development Authority, and represent the City in initiatives and committees in Scott County and the larger metro area.

Your City Council currently includes:

MAYOR

Robert “Bob” Crawford

Term:

Jan 2017-Dec 31, 2018

Mayor Crawford has discovered his second career as an elected official and chief



advocate for the City of Elko New Market. Now in his second term as Mayor, he previously served two years on the Council. As a retired butcher and retail manager, Crawford keeps busy with City business and appointments to the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE), Scott County’s 50 by 30 Transportation and Steering Committees, and a representative to the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA).

COUNCILMEMBERS

Patricia “Trish” Timmons

Acting Mayor

Term:

Jan 2017-Dec 31, 2020

As Acting Mayor, Councilmember Timmons assumes the role of Mayor if Mayor Crawford is not able to

fulfill his responsibilities. She is in her second term on the Council, and represents the City on the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), the I-35 Solutions Alliance, and the City and Elko New Market Chamber working group. Timmons is a Vice President with Bank of New York Mellon, where she has worked for 20 years.



Mayor & Councilmembers Take Oath of Office Continued

Joshua “Josh” Berg

Term:
Jan 2015-Dec 31, 2018

Councilmember Berg is in his first term on the Council. Having previously worked for the Minnesota Department of Health serving older adults and people with disabilities, Berg is familiar with government policies and procedures. Today, he is the Director of Program Services for Accessible Space. He serves on Scott County's 50 by 30 Steering Committee and the Scott County Human Services Council.



and serves as a representative to SCALE. In his previous term, he served as Acting Mayor. He is an Assistant Vice President and Commercial Lender for New Market Bank.

Kate Timmerman

Term:
Nov 2016-Dec 31, 2018

Councilmember Timmerman is well-known in the community as the co-owner (with her husband, Greg) of the Firehouse Grille, President of the Elko New Market Chamber of Commerce, and leader in the local BNI networking group. Following the departure of former Councilmember Jason Stern, Timmerman was appointed to fill his seat until the general election in November, when she was elected to complete the remainder of Stern's term. She serves as the Council liaison to the Civic and Community Events Committee and the Fire Relief Board.



Joe Julius

Term:
Jan 2017-Dec 31, 2020

Councilmember Julius is in his second term on City Council. He is chair of the Economic Development Authority



Engaging with the City

We Want You! City offers several opportunities for you to contribute to the quality of life in our community

We welcome your feedback and input into City operations. If you're interested in becoming more active with the City, there are several avenues for you to explore:

Parks Commission - Five Council-appointed individuals, comprise the Parks Commission. The Commission holds monthly meetings to discuss and make recommendations on development and maintenance of the City's parks and trails system. If you have an interest on serving on the commission, please contact Assistant City Administrator Mark Nagel at mnagel@ci.enm.mn.us.

Planning Commission – Do you have an interest in the growth and development of the City? The Planning Commission may be for you. This body, comprised of five Council-appointed individuals, advises the City Council on matters

related to zoning, subdivisions, building, land use, development and the City's comprehensive plan. If you're interested in learning more about the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Commission, contact Community Development Specialist Renee Christianson at rchristianson@ci.enm.mn.us.

Advisory Committees – Periodically, the City forms special advisory committees or task forces to spearhead priority initiatives. While we are not currently seeking members for any advisory committees, you may contact City Hall to express your interest in future opportunities.

If an ongoing commitment is too much, you are always welcome to attend meetings of the City Council, the Economic Development Authority, and the Planning and Parks Commissions. Check the Calendar on our homepage (www.ci.enm.mn.us) for the schedule.

City Council and Mayor – Running for an elected office provides a great opportunity to learn more about civic affairs, to listen to the concerns of your neighbors and fellow residents, and to help map the future of Elko New Market. The Council is the ultimate governing authority in the City, with the Mayor presiding over the Council. Councilmembers are elected to four-year terms. The Mayor serves two-year terms.

Current Parks Commissioners

- ~ Mike Sutton (Chair)
- ~ Eve Zahratka
- ~ Dennis Melgaard
- ~ Sadie Miller
- ~ Emily Dornseif

Parks Commission Help You Be Active & Engaged

The parks department could be considered the “fun” department at the city. The department oversees more than 6 miles of trails, and 88 acres of parks, preserves and open spaces, and hosts the popular Free Family Fun Nights held at Wagner Park in the summer and at the Elko New Market Library during the winter.

Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

Responsibilities traditionally associated with the Parks Department – the development and maintenance of parks, trails and open spaces – is a big job for the department’s one part-time staff person. Among his other responsibilities, Assistant City Administrator Mark Nagel works with the Parks Commission, a citizen-advisory board appointed by the City Council, to prioritize improvements, equipment upgrades, development of new parks and trails, as well as

coordinating recreational programming.

A major accomplishment for the parks department and commission was the completion of trails/sidewalks stretching from Windrose in the east to Eagle View Elementary School in the west. Pedestrians no longer have to share the road with cars, increasing safety considerably. The Parks Commission is currently discussing the repurposing of Rowena Ponds Park and the future of the skate park at Wagner Park – two significant assets in the city.

The Parks Department is always scouting for more fun activities to keep you and the young ones active and engaged. Get out and join the fun!

Community and Civic Events Committee (CCEC)



On January 17th, the Community and Civic Events Committee (CCEC) held their 2017 Kickoff Meeting to start the planning process for 2017 CCEC events. The Committee is currently working on improvements to existing events, along with the expansion of Fire Rescue Days.

and your community. While it’s true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you’ll experience, volunteering doesn’t have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Giving in even simple ways can help make our events grow and be successful.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, fill out the online form available on the City website on the Events page or email Sandra Green, CCEC Secretary at sgreen@ci.enm.mn.us or call 952-461-2777.



First up, will be the 2017 Annual Egg Hunt to be held on April 8th at Eagle View Elementary School.

The Community and Civic Events Committee (CCEC) is looking for volunteers from our community to help with upcoming community events. With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering are enormous to you, your family

Your Questions Answered

Why is the path on the north side of Co. Rd. 2 not cleared in the winter?

While often used by exercise enthusiasts, the path adjacent to County Road 2 is officially a road for maintenance vehicles to access the Metropolitan Council sewer line that runs

beneath it.

The city clears snow from the path west of County Road 91/Natchez Avenue during the winter but the sections between Interstate 35 and County Road 91 fall outside the city’s jurisdiction.



Department Spotlight—Community Development

Wanted: Crystal Ball. Please contact Community Development with details.

Short of having a crystal ball, the Community Development Department has a lot of research, analysis, and public information-gathering to do as it develops the City's 2040 comprehensive plan, a state-mandated plan due to the Metropolitan Council by the end of 2018. The plan projects a vision for the community 20 or more years into the future, and considers many assets and characteristics of the City through a futuristic lens.

The update process began late last year, when an online survey, combined with a broad mix of in-person interviews, helped staff understand people's views of the community and its potential. Those findings will influence the goals and policies articulated in the comprehensive plan update.

The community's general demographics, current and future parks and trails, projected development activity and subdivisions, and current and future water, sewer and road infrastructure will also inform the update. The plan also recommends possible ordinance changes, capital improvement priorities, and other interim steps to help accomplish the goals of the plan.

The initial draft of the update will be refined through several rounds of feedback from the Planning Commission, Parks Commission and City Council, and will be shared with Scott County. You will be able to review and provide feedback at one or more public open houses later this year. There will also be a formal public

hearing at a future Planning Commission meeting.

Beyond the Comp Plan

While the Comprehensive Plan is a major focus of the Community Development Department currently, its responsibilities extend to ordinance enforcement and updates, zoning, building inspections, economic development and strategies to achieve the comprehensive plan goals. Overall, the department makes recommendations to help the Planning Commission and City Council guide the City's orderly growth and development to foster an efficient, attractive, stable and wholesome community environment. From signage to solar gardens, Community Development is involved.

When not working on the comprehensive plan, the department advises developers, landowners, Planning Commission and Economic Development Authority on new residential, commercial and industrial developments. Community Development Specialist Renee Christianson and Consulting City Planner Bob Kirmis call on a thorough knowledge of City ordinances and zoning, and County and State requirements to guide developers through required applications, wetland delineations, transportation studies and the like. The development process is complex and can sometimes take years from concept to completion.

If you'd like to know more about the comprehensive plan update, please contact us at City Hall at (952)461.2777 or rchristianson@ci.enm.mn.us.



2017 Annual Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny, fire trucks, police officers and the Windmill Petting Zoo will all be at Eagle View Elementary School on Saturday, April 8, for the annual Community Egg Hunt. Will you be? Hundreds of kids will gather up brightly colored plastic eggs spread across the elementary school grounds. Every registered child will receive an Egg Hunt gift bag with candy.

When: Saturday, April 8, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Eagle View Elementary School

Ages: Children up to 5th grade

Cost: \$3/child in advance; \$5/child at the door

Registration Forms:

In person at City Hall or online at www.ci.enm.mn.us





Open to Business Program Available in Elko New Market

Are you an entrepreneur who has a great idea for a business but would like an experienced business expert to help you work through the countless details of getting started? Are you a small business owner who needs help taking your business to the next level? Whether it is financial advice, marketing plans, business structure, or just having someone to help talk through business ideas, Open to Business can help!

The Open to Business program in Scott County is a collaboration between the Scott County Community Development Agency (CDA) and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD). Christin Boecker, the Scott County Open to Business Advisor, is available to provide one-on-one business counseling assistance customized to meet the needs of current business owners and prospective entrepreneurs. Financing is also available to qualified applicants. The Open to

Business program is being offered free of charge to Scott County businesses or residents.

Christine will be in Scott County at the Government Center every Tuesday and is available to meet with entrepreneurs and business owners by appointment. If Tuesday doesn't work, alternate options can be discussed.

For more information about Open to Business or to schedule an appointment, please contact Christin Boecker at (612)843-3278 orcboecker@mccdmn.org, or contact the CDA's First Stop Shop Business Development Manager Stacy Crakes at (952)496-8613 or scrakes@scottfss.org.

New Snowmobile Trail Provides Access to Downtown New Market

Snowmobilers now have a city-approved trail into downtown New Market for getting gas at Fish Rock or stopping at one of the establishments. In December, the city council approved the new trail running behind businesses and homes on the north side of Main Street/County Road 2 to Baltes Avenue. The meandering "spur trail" keeps sleds traveling slowly and reduces noise that may disturb residents. The trail should also help prevent snowmobilers from violating city ordinance by riding on sidewalks or through residents' yards.



Contacting Elected Officials

As the recently re-elected mayor and council members begin their next term in office, we thought we would help clarify when to contact an elected official versus contacting city hall.

Your elected officials govern the city and have ultimate authority for the city, while City Staff manages the day-to-day operations of the city. The city staff are accountable to the mayor and council, and advise them on governance matters when they vote on ordinances and resolutions. The staff balances the elected officials' need for information without taxing them with details of routine tasks.

Because City Staff manages the day-to-day operations of the city, you will generally get a faster response to your questions or concerns

about city affairs by calling city hall. That said, the mayor and council members always welcome and encourage your questions and feedback. Like you, they live in the city and pay taxes here, and want what is best for the city. If you'd like to reach them, all of their email addresses can be found on the city website (www.ci.enm.mn.us) under "Government" and "Mayor and Council."

Keep in mind, whether you contact city hall or an elected official, in some situations they may be limited in what they can tell you if it's a matter where due process must be followed or data privacy restrictions apply.



Winter Stormwater Best Management Practices

Snow and ice on roads, parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks can create hazardous conditions for people and property. Snow and ice removal is best done non-chemically with plows and shovels but, admittedly, the results are not always adequate to ensure safety. Chemical ice melters (typically chloride salts) and/or sanding is often part of a broad strategy to make winter's passage a safe one.

Snow & Ice Removal: Use mechanical means before applying salt/sand, whenever possible.

Salt Application: Follow manufacturer's instructions and use only enough to break the ice/pavement bond. Do not apply on vegetation or near waterways. Use less harmful deicers such as Calcium Magnesium Acetate or Sodium/Potassium Acetate.

Sand Application: Use only enough to provide traction on slippery areas. Sweep up excess sand after snowmelt.

Snow & Ice Disposal: Do not dispose of snow & ice in wetlands, creeks or other waterways or directly on top of storm drains.

Impacts of Salt and Sand

Salt and sand have traditionally been perceived as the cheapest and most effective materials for de-icing driving and walking surfaces. However,

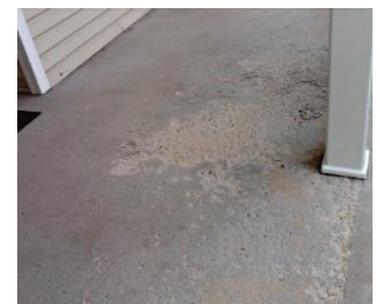
many people do not realize that they have hidden impacts that can detract from their overall effectiveness.

Even in small quantities, salt can:

- * Deplete the oxygen supply needed by aquatic animals and plants;
- * Seep into the ground and change the soil composition, making it hard for plants to survive;
- * Contaminate groundwater and surface waters; and
- * Deteriorate paved surfaces, buildings, infrastructures, and the environment.

Similarly, sand can:

- * Bury the aquatic floor life, fill in habitats, and cloud the water;
- * Cause premature deterioration of floor surfaces as it is tracked into buildings;
- * Lose its effectiveness after becoming embedded in snow and ice;
- * Enter catch basins, storm drains, and surface waters if it is not swept up each spring; and,
- * Contribute to clogged storm drains, which can cause flooding.



Deicing Salt Concrete Damage

CITY OF ELKO NEW MARKET

601 Main Street
PO Box 99
Elko New Market, MN 55020

Phone: (952) 461-2777
Fax: (952) 461-2782

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Residents should be aware that all dogs residing within Elko New Market city limits must be licensed with the City. Please clean up after your pet. In addition, frequent or continual barking is prohibited. Questions? Call (952) 461-2777

February 2017 Calendar

20	Presidents Day	City Offices Closed
23	City Council Work Session	6:30 pm
	City Council Business Meeting	7:30 pm

March 2017 Calendar

2	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
9	City Council Work Session	6:30 pm
	City Council Business Meeting	7:30 pm
14	Parks Commission	4:00 pm
23	City Council Work Session	6:30 pm
	City Council Business Meeting	7:30 pm

(All meetings are subject to change.)

2017 Community Events

2017 Event Schedule

Egg Hunt	April 8
City Wide Garage Sale	May 18-20
Spring Clean Up	June 10
Fire Rescue Days	June 22-25
Night to Unite	August 1
Halloween Party	October 28

Watch upcoming newsletters and the City website at www.ci.enm.mn.us for more community events as they are scheduled.

