



CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

“Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future” **January 2021**

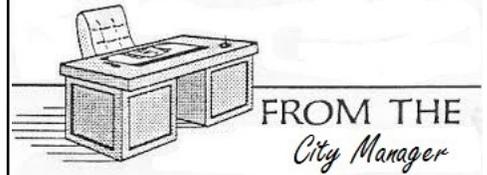
Contact Numbers

City Hall	405-390-8198
Public Works	405-390-1121
Code Enforcement	405-281-6869
Court Clerk	405-390-3333
Permits/Licenses	405-390-2999
Police (non-emergency)	405-769-3821
Fire (non-emergency)	405-390-8300
Police/Fire Emergency	911
Choctaw Creek Golf	405-769-7166
Waste Connections	405-745-2942

Choctaw Library

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System is located at 2525 Muzzy Street. All Metro Library locations are in the "Grab & Go" stage. Customers can come into a library to use a computer, print/copy/fax/scan, and briefly browse the shelves. Masks are required. You may still return materials to the external book drop, place holds online, and pick up using curbside service. Hours for curbside pickup are Monday-Thursday 9am-7pm; Fridays 9am-6pm; Saturdays 9am-5pm; Sundays 1pm-6pm. In-person programs are suspended, but many programs are available online in addition to pre-made kits.

For more information visit the website, metrolibrary.org/locations/choctaw, or call 405-390-8418.



City Manager's Corner

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Choctaw! Just a few quick updates from City Hall, then an explanation of the Budget Amendment that Council passed Tuesday, Dec. 15th.

We recently received notification that the Federal Government has recognized the disaster declaration request from Governor Stitt concerning the October ice storm and has approved the state's request for disaster assistance to 13 counties, including Oklahoma County. The Federal declaration of the disaster is the trigger mechanism enabling Choctaw to execute a contract for the pick-up of tree debris gathered on section line roads and neighborhoods. Like other cities in the region, Choctaw will likely still be looking at tree debris for a period of time, but this is an important step in the right direction. Your continued patience is appreciated. The city will be opening the bid process to contract for debris removal on 31 December 2020 at City Hall. Start of work will take some time afterward to allow the contractor sufficient time for marshalling and preparation. In the meantime, there are other options that you may choose: The drop off location at 2900 Plant Drive, open Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 2 PM; this location is free to citizens of Choctaw showing a utility bill as proof of residency; Waste Connections will pick up your tree debris, up to 3 Cubic Yards, if bundled correctly. Citizens that wish to have debris picked up for a fee in excess of 3 and up to 9 Cubic Yards can call City Hall to coordinate that pick up with Waste Connections; Burn permits from the Fire Department are free and residents can call them at 390-8300 for details. Again, thank you for your patience.

The Finance Director and I were pleased to present the City and CUA budget amendments to Council on 15 December



Recycling Pickup Schedule

Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur in the weeks of: **Jan. 4th & 18th**.

Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

Bulk trash is picked up monthly based on your regular trash day. Find your trash day to see when your monthly Bulk Pick-Up will occur:

- Monday**=1st Thursday of the month
- Tuesday**=2nd Thursday of month
- Wednesday**=3rd Thursday
- Thursday/Friday** = 4th Thursday

City Offices Closed

City Hall and its offices will be closed New Year's Day on **January 1st**. Trash services will not run on January 1st but will run one day behind after the holiday for the rest of the week.

Choctaw Senior Center

The Choctaw Senior Center is located at 14653 Dean Street. The Senior Center is currently closed due to COVID-19 Health Department & CDC guidelines. During this closure members are still receiving meals and there are some curbside activities. Information will be posted on the city webpage at mychoctaw.org/255/Choctaw-Senior-Citizens-Center.

Family Storytimes, Tuesdays, **Jan. 12th & 26th**, 10:00-10:30am, Ages 0-5; Join us on Zoom as skilled librarians introduce little ones to the library and show parents and caregivers invaluable information on reading readiness and create excitement about reading. Connect with others while enjoying the stories, songs, and more! Registration required for the Zoom link.

Get Cooking: Slow Cookers, Mon. **Jan. 25th**, 6:30-7:30pm, Adults; Are you looking forward to cozying up with a warm, hearty meal but don't have the time or energy? Set it and forget it with a slow cooker meal! Join Taylor Conner from OK County Extension as she shares tips and tricks for easy and tasty meals using a slow cooker. Recipes provided. Registration required for Zoom link.

Raising Sheep and Goats, Thur. **Jan. 28th**, 6:30-7:30pm, Adults; One of the appeals of living in a more rural area is the ability to raise animals for fun or profit. This program is for anyone considering raising sheep or goats for the first time. Join Oklahoma County Extension Educator Joshua Campbell to learn the basics of breed selection, housing, fencing, health, and nutrition for sheep and goats. Registration required for Zoom link.

Fitness kits, All ages; Did you know the library can get you fit? Check out a fitness kit that contains DVDs, equipment, and more to use at home. Available kits include Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Chair Fitness, Pilates, HIIT, and more! Kits check out for 3 weeks.

Visit us online at www.mychoctaw.org for even more information.

Board / Commission Meeting Dates

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted; virtual attendance available via Zoom link, found in the agenda for the meeting)

7:00 PM

City Council, followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **Jan 5th & 19th**

Planning Commission: **Jan 7th**

Public Recreation Advisory Board: **Jan 12th**

Board of Adjustments (as needed): **Jan 25th**

4:30 PM

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (Choctaw City Hall & Zoom): **Jan 27th**

2020. The trigger for this amendment was the favorable performance of sales tax revenue since the implementation of City Council’s emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For a variety of reasons, sales tax revenue to the city has consistently outperformed last year’s revenue by 21% for regular sales tax and 70% for use tax. As you recall, the city cut this year’s budget by 10% over last year, froze personnel hiring to that of essential personnel only, and severely limited capital purchases.

We project by June 30, 2021 the City combined Sales Tax revenue will be about \$8.1M. This is a conservative estimate based on current trend which is about \$600K better than last year’s combined revenue. For CUA, we programmed the approved fee increases and future loan payments for the \$5.7M in capital requirements. Improvements include a new 500K gallon above-ground water tower, replacement of two sewer lift stations, emergency repair to the above-ground water tank on Indian Meridian, and new sewer and lift station for 15th & Anderson to decommission an old lagoon. However, due to the COVID-19 emergency proclamation, we did freeze hiring and new capital besides those noted above. We also froze utility cut-offs for non-payment—cut-offs went back into effect December 15th, 2020.

The breakdown: Capital requirements will be funded through dedicated sales tax, dedicated capital, and Street & Alley funds. A snapshot of requirements are as follows:

FIRE: Fire Truck, Fire Station #1 repair work, engine replacement equipment
POLICE: Printers, cell reader software/

equipment, access gate and coded access pads x2

STREETS & UTILITIES: Backhoe repair, dump truck bed, street sweeper, sewer jetter

ADMIN: Laserfiche software, Prosignio video streaming, agenda linkage, City Hall improvements

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: Near-map software, traffic counts, GIS software, plotter / cartridges

PARKS & REC: storage facility at Bouse, CivicRec software, cemetery equipment, dump station for RV use at Ten Acre Lake, mower for Bouse and parks, golf parking, path bridges

The Development Services and Public Works directors are researching best practice requirement agreements for City streets. A requirements agreement would allow the City flexibility to fund specific road repair projects by pre-negotiating material / labor / equipment prices on an annual basis. Funding would drive the specific projects done by contract and would lend a more predictable rhythm to road repairs annually. Intent would be to set aside dedicated sales tax, streets funding, and capital to fund projects annually. Our goal is to have an agreement in place before the next fiscal year to execute street repair projects after 1 July 2021. Streets personnel focus would pivot to minor repairs, bar ditch maintenance, street sweeping, mowing, and general maintenance.

There are some important personnel additions to departments. The Police Chief asks for an Assistant Chief position. The Assistant Chief duties will be training, policies, and investigations focused. The Fire Chief is asking to fund an Assistant Chief position with similar functions as both departments grow. These positions allow for internal growth to the Chief position, as succession planning is important. The Finance Department asks to add a Deputy Director. With the transition to the new financial system, updated policies, procedures, and oversight are of paramount importance. The position also accommodates succession planning. In Parks & Recreation we ask for a full-time Programs & Events Coordinator. All the added positions would allow department heads to free up time for strategic oversight. Future planning capabilities are limited without the new positions.

Other items of interest: Before 1 July 2021, staff will develop a 5-year capital improvement program for council approval as the basis for funding of a Capital Reserve account established in June of 2019. The funding for this account, to be used for roads and other large capital purchases, will come from dedicated sales tax, Cares Act money, and a percentage of the General Fund carryover. We will add to the Stabilization Reserve account from Cares Act money. The 5-year capital improvement program will include projects prioritized by the Mayor’s Roads Committee, department head out-year requirements, consolidated City Hall, and other general City capital equipment / software needs.

The vision Council had more than 10 years ago with the creation of the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District is now starting to pay off through increased revenue to the City. Sales tax revenue generated by the retailers in this district is essential to drive infrastructure funding, modernization, and personnel additions to better serve the citizens of Choctaw. Hopefully, not speaking to soon, but it appears we are turning a corner to a little stronger financial position to address issues in the City.

Again, From City Hall, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Your City Manager,
Ed Brown

From the World Health Organization:

- FEET—Stay more than 6 feet apart
- HANDS—Wash them often
- AVOID---Crowded, enclosed areas
- MASK---Wear a mask where recommended
- FEEL sick?—Stay home

OCCHD (Oklahoma City-County Health Department) phone bank hotline, 405-425-4489, currently staffed M-F, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Outside of those hours, please call the state hotline, which is operational 24 hours a day:

COVID-19
CALL CENTER
(877) 215-8336



Choctaw City Hall

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P.O. Box 567
Choctaw, Oklahoma 73020

Phone: (405) 390-8198

Fax: (405) 390-8607

Email: citymanager@choctawcity.org

Web Site: www.mychoctaw.org

Did you know?

The City Council agendas as well as all of the back-up information is available on the City’s website at: www.mychoctaw.org

Check it out and subscribe!