



CITY OF MILLS
EST. 1921

704 Fourth Street
P.O. Box 789
Mills, WY 82644

Phone: 307-234-6679
Fax: 307-234-6528

RE: First 30 Days in Office

February 14, 2023

Dear Mills Residents,

I wanted to take a moment to update you on how the City of Mills has been transitioning in the first 30 days. The first week was focused on getting Department heads on-boarded with the new administration with a big Thanks to Dr Rasner for the help. He provided the team with a presentation on drafting goals and workplace productivity. I am optimistic about the willingness of the department heads to take on changes and work to find fiscally responsible new ideas. In fact, most heads already had a list of ideas ready to present with changes needed to streamline work or save money.

In the past 30 days, I've joined 27 in person meetings, numerous conference calls and a long list of daily emails, including phone calls and texts throughout the day, all dealing with the day-to-day city operations. Some of these meetings deal with our working relationships with other towns, cities and the county. Once a month the "meeting of the governments" gathers to discuss factors that affect multiple governmental bodies, upcoming issues or points that need assistance. One topic is our mutual aid for ambulance services. As with every county across Wyoming, Natrona County's governmental bodies have a financial burden of providing ambulance services and the ability to fund them is becoming increasingly more difficult as able payees vanish.

Recently you read about our call to action involving multiple dogs from an animal cruelty and hoarding situation. A huge THANK YOU to our community for sharing the post and all the calls from adopters. As the situation stands, a couple of the dogs may be appealed and are in limbo. However, we are happy to report that we have rehomed 4 dogs from the group. We couldn't have done it without the assistance of the community.

As with any transition of administration, there will be changes expected and problems inherited. One such problem was the line of credit of \$500,000 taken out last year and maturing on Feb 23rd, 2023. This line of credit was secured when the city was short of operating revenue and was utilized for non-emergent projects. The decision was made to pay only the minimum monthly payment which left my administration in a tough position to deal with the looming interest and large monthly payments. With the strategy of the treasurer and clerk we were able to take a large portion of our current surplus and pay down on that line of credit. We've worked out an aggressive repayment plan that will get us out of that debt quickly preventing as much interest accumulation as possible.

The City of Mills has been working with the metro task force to address some of the animal control issues such as creating animal ordinances that match across the cities and towns in our community. The task force is working on returning the chip registry database that allows all neighboring cities the ability to pull up owner information. Mills' goal has always been to return the stray dog to its owner. Our officers are great about knowing our dog population and most times bringing them back to their home.



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As you venture through Mills, you may have noticed the start of the riverfront project. This current phase is boring sewer and water lines under SW Wyoming Blvd. with the next phase conquering river bank stabilization. Thanks to the Wyoming Business Council, this project is largely funded by a grant with a 5% match.

I always strive to keep the public updated on the events in and around Mills and hope you are able to attend our council work sessions or council meetings held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at city hall with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mayor Leah Juarez