

City Manager's Remarks

Good evening, Mayor and Council. I have a few brief updates tonight.

First, tonight's agenda includes several items tied to the City's sewer collection system improvement work. This is an important infrastructure project focused on infiltration and inflow issues in the sewer system. The purpose is to protect the long-term function of the wastewater system, reduce unnecessary flow into the plant, and position the City to use grant funding where available.

It is important to make clear that this is a **sewer fund project**. Any local share or debt service associated with this work would be paid through the sewer fund and sewer revenues. It would not be placed on the general citywide tax levy, and it does not impact the General Fund.

Second, the bond authorization before Council is for up to **\$3 million**, but that does not mean the City will borrow the full amount if grant funding reduces the local share. The City has a WIIA grant of **\$685,000** and is also pursuing/working through the STAG grant funding of **\$1 million**. The bond resolution gives the City the legal authority to move the project forward, while actual borrowing would be limited to the amount ultimately needed after available grant funding is applied.

Third, the wireless communications local law is also before Council tonight. This law gives the City clearer zoning standards for wireless communication facilities and towers. It establishes local review standards around location, height, setbacks, safety, screening, co-location, removal, and ongoing certification. The goal is not to prevent necessary telecommunications infrastructure, but to make sure it is reviewed in a responsible and predictable way.

Fourth, the 2027 budget process is beginning. Department-level budget meetings are scheduled for July, and we will continue to work through projected revenues, expenses, capital needs, and cost pressures. My goal is to give Council a clear, realistic budget picture early enough for thoughtful discussion before the formal budget season.

Finally, I want to note that City operations remain busy across departments, including summer recreation, infrastructure work, code and planning activity, public safety operations, and preparations for fall community events. I appreciate the continued work of the department heads and staff.