

We ended the month of May with another great Memorial Day service put on by our own VFW Post 11401. Colonel Timothy W Holman gave a very inspiring message. We had a nice turnout – I love that about Milton – we haven't forgotten what freedom costs! The day started off with people lined up at the top of Milton Way ready to run the Milton Memorial Mile, a new event in Milton, which this year raised money to support a future 9/11 memorial. Everything went very well with 75 participants! A big thank you to everyone who helped put this event on.

We have a few new faces on City Council, starting with Susan Johnson, who joined us last month taking Bart Taylor's position, and this month Tony Bennest took Aaron Jones' position. I and the rest of Council would like to give a big welcome to Susan and Tony. It's very nice to see the enthusiasm along with new ideas they bring to the table. We also have new faces on our volunteer boards and commissions: Michael Olson and Jeremy Jansa have joined the Planning Commission, and Lou Murkowski is now on the Park Board. There's a lot that goes into running a city – thank you everyone for stepping up to these positions.

With our new council members in place, we held our annual Council Retreat. We started by touring all the parks – we took a bus to several of our park properties, really looking at them and discussing what they need and even dreaming of what we could do. We love our city, and we really love our parks! We were joined by state representative Carol Gregory, along with several members of our staff – a lot of good planning happened that weekend. Council has set some very big goals; we have our work cut out for us.



In the first part of May, I was asked to give a “State of the City” address at the Chamber of Commerce, along with Edgewood Mayor Daryl Eiding and Fife Mayor Tim Curtis. Our city’s financial state is very good, with healthy ending fund balances in all funds. We have successfully transferred over to new software, and are currently upgrading all of our IT system and expanding our IT department. This should help things work much smoother. The building and planning department have been quite busy finishing up the Comprehensive Plan and issuing permits for some of the new construction you see around town. The ADA improvements in Milton Community Park have been completed, and we are simply waiting to hook up to the Pierce County sewer system to unlock the bathrooms. We have waited a long time for this! The building and grounds look beautiful – I'm pretty sure we'll have to cut a ribbon and have some cake.

Also in May, I was honored to be asked to sit on the interview panel for the East Pierce Fire Department’s new fire chief. Chief Goodlet led the panel and did a great job. I was absolutely amazed at the diversity and superb qualities of the chief candidates. It was a real pleasure to talk with all of them.

It's been a busy month full of some really great things. I'm very much looking forward to some slower summer days.