

City of Fremont Update

Date: June 18, 2021

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

Cares Act of 2020 versus the American Rescue Plan of 2021

Under the Cares Act, \$150 billion was available to state and local governments. The City received three payments for eligible costs to cover “necessary expenditures” incurred due to COVID-19, including: \$69,000 and \$13,000 for airport operations and \$1,073,000 to reimburse the City for Police, Fire, and PSAP (911) salaries from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. No funds were available to reimburse the City for shortfalls in revenues to cover expenditures.



Under the American Rescue Plan Act, \$350 billion will be provided to governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, to bring back jobs, and to assist cities in maintaining staffing and operations during the pandemic. The City is slated to receive \$4,460,000, based upon population formula. Under the plan, the City is designated as a “non-entitlement unit of local government,” which means the funds will come via the State. The payment will come from the State in two disbursements. The first 50% within 30-days of when the State receives the funds and the second 50%, no earlier than 12-months after the date the first payment was received. Eligible costs are those necessary to respond “to the public health emergency” or its “negative economic impacts.” This includes lost revenues due to COVID-19, or in Fremont’s case, lost revenues from Keno and occupational tax (food & beverage, lodging, franchise, & garbage) receipts. The eligible costs spelled out in the legislation are water, sewer, and broadband improvements, while other eligible costs are still being developed.

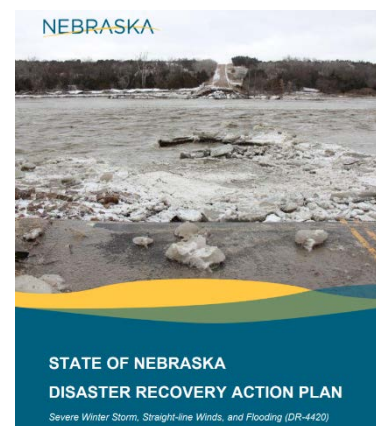


President Biden Amends Disaster Declaration

President Biden amended the Major Disaster Declaration (DR 4420) for Nebraska to increase the federal cost share for the public assistance program projects assigned to the 2019 flood. Under the amendment, FEMA’s normal cost share of 75% will be increased to 90%. Here is the difference between the two cost share methods:

<u>Prior Cost Share</u>	<u>New Cost Share</u>
FEMA – 75%	FEMA – 90%
State – 12.5%	State – 0%
City – 12.5%	City – 10%

With this change, the City’s share of the 2019 flood damages (\$1,023,976) will go from \$127,997 (12.5%) to \$102,398 (10%) or a decrease of \$25,599. While this is not a huge decrease, any little bit helps and lowers the amount the City must assess against taxpayers and ratepayers to repair the damages.



There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!

Coalition Board Approves Audit, Sets 2021-2022 Budget, & Reviews Draft Master Plan

The Board of the Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition met in Norfolk this week to approve the 2021 audit, review and consider the Coalition's preliminary 2021-2022 budget and review a draft master plan. City Councilmember Mark Jensen represents the City on the coalition board, which is comprised of 25 city and village municipal members.

Financially, the Coalition has strong finances with revenues of \$4,743,127 and expenses of \$2,064,652, the Coalition's net position increased by \$2,678,475 in fiscal year 2020. Unrestricted net position increased by \$1,045,289. The Coalition has approximately \$4.8 million invested in capital assets, mostly consisting of landfill cells. The Coalition owns 160 acres of land in Stanton County near Clarkson. The three largest members of the Coalition are Fremont, Columbus, and Norfolk.

The board reviewed the preliminary budget which assumes 1) that Waste Connections will continue to operate the Coalition Landfill under the existing terms; 2) that Coalition tipping fees will remain unchanged at \$24 per ton; and the funds for closure/post closure will increase from \$9.8 million to \$10.5 million. According to the Coalition Interlocal Agreement, the preliminary budget must be considered by the Fremont, Columbus, and Norfolk City Councils during a regular city council meeting.

The draft Master Plan reviewed by the board outlined the expansion of the landfill, the life of the landfill, capital improvements, and a financial evaluation. The chart below shows the size of each landfill cell in acres and the life (year filled) of each cell under three scenarios: no change in waste, 20% decrease in waste, and a 20% increase in waste.

Cell Area	Cell Acres	No Waste Change	20% Waste Decrease	20% Waste Increase
Area 1-6	26.1	2042	2047	2038
Area 6	22.8	2060	2067	2054
Area 7	34.1	2074	2084	2067
Area 8	19.2	2078	2088	2070

As shown in the table above, the landfill has enough capacity until the year 2078 under current waste volumes and until the year 2070 if waste volume increases by 20% (both highlighted in red). That means the landfill is well prepared to handle Fremont's solid waste for a long time in the future.

29th Street Paving

Yong Construction has started the paving project in the Technology Park. The City Council awarded the bid of \$2 million to Yong in March to extend 29th Street from Yager to several blocks east of Lincoln Avenue and extend Lincoln Avenue north from the Rawhide Creek to 32nd Street. The project is expected to be complete by the end of September.



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