



2015 Accomplishments

New Things Around Town

Hats – Bright yellow, reflective hats were distributed to all elementary aged students in Soldotna (1,500 total) through a Safe Routes to School grant and in collaboration with various community partners.

Soldotna Historical Society Museum Parking Lot Improvements – The Maintenance Department opened up the visibility to K-Beach by clearing an area of small trees. The parking area was expanded and improved with the addition of typar and gravel.

Website – The new website was finalized and all content was migrated to the new site. The MIS department implemented a new server and hosting for the City website.

Community Calendar – A new community recreation calendar was launched. Events can be viewed by event type, age range or cost.

#mysoldotna Video – Made in conjunction with a local filmmaker, this video shows off our community and has been viewed by thousands.

Human Foosball – Soldotna Parks and Recreation built a life-size human foosball game that was a crowd favorite at festivals and events.



New Equipment



Vactor Truck – The Utility Department took delivery of a new Vactor Truck in July 2015 and put it into service for the fall lift station cleaning and the 2015 rodding schedule. The Maintenance department was able to use the vactor truck in maintaining the storm drain system. Nearly a third of the storm drains were vactored this year and another third of the system will be vactored each year.

Ford Police Vehicles – The Soldotna Police Department acquired two new Ford Police Interceptors to replace aging vehicles.

Body Worn Cameras – The Soldotna Police Department implemented the use of body worn cameras. This included the purchase of the cameras, cloud storage and training.

SRSC Wireless – The wireless infrastructure at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex was upgraded.

Fiber Optic Circuit – Fiber optic circuit was installed at City Hall.

Camera System at Soldotna Creek Park – A new camera system was implemented at Soldotna Creek Park.

Events

Frozen River Fest – The first Frozen River Fest was successfully implemented and planning for Frozen River Fest 2016 is already underway.

Movie Night in the Park – Movies in the Park included hits like Frozen and Minions 3. The skating path was open and firepits kept movie goers warm.

Riverskate Skating Competition –The largest figure skating competition in Alaska with 148 skaters is held annually at the SRSC.

ARTSpace Emerging Artists Festival – Sponsored and assisted with the first annual ARTSpace Emerging Artists Festival.

Summertime in Soldotna and (A)LIVE After 5 – Assisted with marketing for these summer events.



Awards

“Grassroots Initiative” Award – The organizing team of the Frozen River Fest (a partnership between the City of Soldotna, Kenai Watershed Forum, Tustumena 200, Soldotna Chamber and local breweries) won the American Planning Association Alaska Chapter’s “Grassroots Initiative” award.

Eagle Award – The Soldotna Regional Sports Complex / Centennial Trail won the Kenai River SportFishing Association’s Eagle award.

Facility Excellence Award – Soldotna Creek Park won the Alaska Recreation and Park Association Facility Excellence award.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting – Awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the Soldotna Finance Department has received this award annually for many years.



Major Projects Completed

Cemetery Expansion – An expansion was needed at the cemetery to accommodate reservations and internments. Added to the cemetery were 110 Cremains Plots, 49 Flat Marker Plots and 51 Upright Marker Plots.



Soldotna Regional Sports Complex Re-roof – The re-roofing of the Sports Center was a desperately needed project to replace the over thirty year old, failing roof. This project was mostly funded through grant funds, but an additional appropriation was made to fund re-roofing the entire building.

The roofing membrane thickness was increased over the entire roof from 60 mils to 90 mils, which also increased the warranty of the roof from 20 years to 30 years.



North Aspen Drive Improvements – The existing street was a gravel road in poor condition with inadequate drainage and required considerable maintenance. The project reconstructed the subgrade, replaced an aging AC water main and paved the street with curb, gutter, sidewalk on one side and street lighting. The approximately 900 foot long street remains one of the few commercial streets in Soldotna that has available land for development.

The Utility Department worked with the Design Engineers on the water and sewer for this project. All water services were replaced during this project. Between the contractor and the Utility Department, a temporary water source was

supplied to all structures on the street without any water outages during construction.

West Redoubt Sidewalk and Lighting Improvements and Riverside Drive Sidewalk – These construction projects were bid together due to similarity of work. Sidewalks and street lights were continued down West Redoubt Avenue from the Memorial Park to the end of the street. A sidewalk was added to one side of Riverside Drive to provide pedestrian access to this busy street. Both projects were identified through the 5-year CIP process.

Soldotna Drainage Improvements – This project fixed two drainage issues on our streets. The first was ponding on Kobuk Street near the Sterling Highway. The second was ponding on Henrich Circle that became a major issue during breakup. These two projects were the last designs of drainage issues the Maintenance Department requested repairs for under the Citywide Street Improvements Project. A new storm drain inlet was added at Kobuk to fix the ponding. On Henrich, new storm drains and ditching were constructed along the street to divert the water off the roadway.

Binkley Street and Corral Street Lift Station – The new lift station for Binkley Street was completed after being put on hold in 2014, due to weather concerns. The Utility Department was very involved with the design of the water and sewer for the Binkley Street Improvement Project. During construction, the Utility Department rodded and camera inspected over 4,600 lineal feet of sewer main. The entire intersection was closed due to the large hole that was dug for construction. The intersection was reconstructed and the lift station is now fully operational.

Major Projects Completed (cont.)



Kalifornsky Beach Water Reservoir Completion – The bulk of the work on the Kalifornsky Beach Reservoir was done in 2014. This spring, the interior coatings and siding were completed on the reservoir. After final curing and approval, the tank was filled and programming of the pumps was completed. With the 1,000,000 gallon K-Beach Reservoir operational, the Utility Department was able to take the Karen Street Reservoir offline for cleaning and inspection.

Swiftwater Campground Expansion – The original clearing to expand the campground and add 50 new campsites was done in 2014 and work continued in the spring of 2015. Construction of the roads and campsites was completed; the campsites were outfitted with picnic tables and fire pits and the sites were available for use in July.

Building Permits for More Than \$9 Million in Commercial and Residential Construction – A total of 46 permits were issued in 2015 with a total valuation of \$9,647,320.71. This valuation is based upon average square footage costs for construction but does not include all of the costs of construction. Design, furniture, fixtures, finishes, land or land development costs, paving, curbs, landscaping, etc. are not included.

COMMERCIAL:

Commercial New	6	\$ 3,094,112.57
Commercial Remodel	13	\$ 2,137,328.80
Total - Commercial	19	\$ 5,231,441.37

RESIDENTIAL:

Residential New Single Family	18	\$ 3,709,496.50
Residential New Duplex	2	\$ 540,786.40
Residential Remodel	5	\$ 88,989.00
Residential Other (Garages, Sheds, etc.)	2	\$ 76,607.44
Total - Residential	27	\$ 4,415,879.34

Increased Efficiency

Created a Buildings Maintenance Position – This position was filled in May 2015 and has saved the City thousands of dollars in contracted services. VFD's were installed at City Hall for roughly \$4,800; the programming from Siemens will be \$3,800 for a total cost of \$8,600. The original quote from Siemens to complete the entire job was \$18,350 for a savings of \$9750.

Discontinued Printing Paper Packets – Paper packets are no longer printed for staff, City Council members or Planning and Zoning Commission members. All Council Members and Planning and Zoning Commissioners signed the newly adopted Mobile Device Policy, received iPads and attended a training session on iPad use.

Transition to Ord-Bank – The transition to Ord-Bank eliminated the staff time necessary to manage the city web page of Ordinances not codified. Ord-Bank tracks all un-codified ordinances automatically.

Employee Portal – The Finance Department successfully worked with Natpay and Caselle to implement an employee portal for online paystubs and W-2's. This project began in 2014 and was completed in 2015.

New Records Management System (SPD) – The Soldotna Police Department implemented a new records management system (RMS) in March for case reports. This is the same RMS that the State uses. This allows the State and our agency to share information and easily supplement each other's incidents when assisting each other. This is a robust system which is managed by the State and in which the city pays a user's fee to use.

Receipt Printers and Radio Frequency ID Technology (RFID)– At the Soldotna Public Library, receipt printers were installed and RFID technology has been fully implemented including tags and self-checkout stations.

Expanded Credit Card Program – Pay stations were installed at Swiftwater and Centennial Campgrounds during 2015 to allow customers to pay fees with cash or credit card when the campgrounds are not staffed. Additionally, the Finance Department has expanded the City's credit card program to allow customers at other departments to pay with credit/debit cards. At the time of this report, the Airport, Animal Control, Library and the Police Department have all been implemented. The Soldotna Regional Sports Complex will be implemented within the next couple of weeks and the Campgrounds during the summer of 2016.

LED Lights – At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the sodium vapor lights were changed out to LED lights in the Aeration Basin.

Double Sided the Printed Copy of the Code – The printed version of the code was single sided and was 4.5" thick. To eliminate an unnecessary waste of paper with each code update, the printed version was changed to a double sided code.



Mission Accomplished

Sale of Excess City Property – 7 parcels were sold (6 in public auction). The project came in under budget and all land sold for over the asking price. The net profit to the city was \$303,000.

Destruction of Obsolete Records – A total of 205 boxes were identified that contained obsolete records, these boxes were entered into the records management program and the contents destroyed by shredding.

Going out to Bid for Insurance Services – Going out to bid for property, liability and worker's compensation insurance services was a goal for 2015. This was completed and a resolution was adopted by the Council in June 2015 (Res 2015-029).

Clean Audits – The City received another clean or "unmodified" audit opinion for the fiscal year 2015 financial statements. This is the best opinion that can be given related to an audit of financial statements. The auditors were very pleased again this year with the accuracy and reliability of the financial records and zero audit adjustments were needed related to the FY15 financial statements. Our audit fees have remained less than several years ago because less time is spent conducting our audit and because the Finance Department is now drafting and printing the financial statements instead of the auditors. The City also received a clean report from the State of Alaska for its PERS compliance efforts.

Finance Policies Adopted – The City adopted the following financial policies: General Fund Reserve Policy, a One Time Revenues Financial Management Policy and a Capital Asset Management Policy.

Investment Policy Revision and Quarterly Reporting – The City revised its investment code and the investment allocations. The City and the City's investment advisors will be reporting quarterly to the Council on the status of the City's investments.

Volunteer Appreciation at the Library – A volunteer appreciation program has been implemented at the Soldotna Public Library. The library has maintained an average of at least 12 regular library volunteers per month during 2015.

Popular Annual Financial Report – The Finance Department and the Economic Development and Planning Department worked together to publish the fourth City of Soldotna Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The City of Soldotna is one of only three municipalities in the State to publish this document.

Gateway Signs and Banners – New gateway signs were designed and were approved by AK DOT and FHWA. The signs are scheduled for installation spring 2016. Final banner design for utility poles is in progress and will also be installed spring 2016.

