



I am happy to be here as the bearer of good news.

Your City, The City of Craig, is financially sound and is more proactive than ever before in creating a foundation and building partnerships that will prepare us for change that is coming to our community.

We will not be afraid of change, will embrace the change, adjust to it, the City and its residents will prosper.

City Manager Peter Brixius and his Executive Assistant Melanie Kilpatrick are creating relationships and are producing product that will lead to increased City services to the community.

Today I signed a contract with the City Attorney that will give him more hours to deal with the increased workload.

The Chamber did not give me enough time to tell you all the good things that are happening, but I am going to try!!! Hang on we are going for a ride!!!

2019 will see a broadband project by "Luminate" a subsidiary of Yampa Valley Electric. That project will give Craig abundant, redundant, and high-speed internet needed to compete with the rest of the world.

This came about because of efforts of the Craig/ Moffat Economic Development partnership and the City of Craig working with the state, infrastructure owners, and searching for providers that were willing to invest in our community.

This past year City officials along with other community entities participated in a branding process that led to Craig and Moffat County declaring ourselves "Colorado's Great Northwest."

Craig, Moffat County, The Moffat County Tourism Association, and the Chamber have uniform logos now that shows a never before seen community unity.

The City will partner with these agencies and others to move our community forward:

This is what your City will do!

Partner with Moffat County through the Joint Services Committee to maximize taxpayer money.

Questioning if we can combine departments or share resources will it reduce unnecessary duplication and save money and time to both entities.

Arenas of discussion are now looking at Road & Bridge, information technology, Parks & Recreation.

We currently share the airport and building inspector.

Partner with the Chamber of Commerce on the Small Business Development Center and other projects that will be developed.

Partner with the Moffat County Tourism Association on Wayfinding signs that you will see in 15 different spots in Craig and will direct people to our golf course, high school, hospital, museum, library, Loudy-Simpson, downtown, and other important assets.

Partner with downtown business by not only removing snow and making sure our downtown is accessible in the winter; but also, by offering a grant program that will encourage those businesses to upgrade their facades and improve business. The City will match a project up to \$25,000.

Partner with Memorial Regional Health on its expansion through building inspections and regulations with parking and landscaping.

Partner with Colorado Northwest Community College on program and infrastructure needs.

Partner with community members that have blighted buildings that need to be removed. The City will help pay for asbestos testing and work with those owners to facilitate tearing down structures that are dangerous and take away from the ambience of the neighborhood.

Partner with the State of Colorado to provide an 8 ft wide concrete trail from the intersection of Highways 13 & 40 to the middle of Ridgeview subdivision.

Partner with the School District on utilizing properties for multiple use.

The City will take on two major and noticeable beautification projects: one will be along the frontage road by Murdoch's with red stamped concrete replacing the dirt and weeds there.

The other will follow the US 40 transition curve that starts at State Farm Insurance and goes east to Ranney Street. Ugly concrete barriers will go away, new sidewalks and landscaping will be installed.

The City will continue to support our industry partners: Tri-State Generation & Transmission, Trapper Mine and Colowyo as they constantly fight to deal with new laws, regulations and those that oppose any type of extraction and fossil fuel energy generation.

The City will look at leveraging grants and finding opportunities to bring outside money into the community. Just today the City was awarded an Energy Impact Assistance Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 (1 million dollars) for a water improvement project.

A \$150,000 Great Colorado Outdoors grant was awarded for further improvements to Breeze Street Park.

\$200,000 Grant for the Round Bottom Water tank improvements.

\$30,000 Water Conservation Board Grant.

\$8500 Interstate portal Grant.

This brings the total year to date: \$1,388,500!

On March 1st, City Manager Peter Brixius, Executive Assistant Melanie Kilpatrick, Councilwoman Andrea Camp, Councilman Chris Nichols and myself joined other community members in Grand Junction and toured economic development programs there.

We came away with ideas on how a business incubator center and co-working spaces can invigorate a community and encourage entrepreneurs and young people to stay and invest in their community.

We understand that utilization of these resources can benefit not only our community but the region. People may want to say their product is from Steamboat Springs but why can't we provide the manufacturing and warehousing to support those industries right here in Moffat County?

The best part of that trip was the relationships we forged and the understanding that the people in Mesa County are willing to help us emulate their successes here.

Everyday your City staff is working hard to provide excellent service with Water, Parks & Recreation, Road & Bridge, Police, Code Enforcement and Building inspection.

They take pride in what they do and make sure that your tax money is being used in the most efficient manner.

When you see a city staff member, thank them for what they do to make all of our lives better.

And that's the way it is in your City, The City of Craig, April 1st 2019.