

CITY MANAGER'S BIWEEKLY UPDATE

January 31, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 10th - 6 p.m.– Kilgore Men and Women of Alliance Mardi Gras Ball at the Texan
- **February 13th - Regular City Council Meeting at 5:30 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers**
- February 17th – Bulldogs & Boots Gala at the Texan for the KISD Education Foundation
- **February 27th – Regular City Council Meeting at 5:30 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers**
- March 2nd – Kilgore Artwalk Downtown

PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND PROJECTS

- MLK Community Building is being painted and new plumbing fixtures will be installed this week. We are aiming for completion this month.
- Due to the proactive efforts of Parks staff, we made it through the freeze with no breaks or leaks in our parks!
- Ice and rain were not kind to our streets and crews are working to address the increasing number of potholes. The weather hasn't been kind to our utility system, either. We experienced at least five sewer overflows, and the number of water main breaks since the ice storm now exceeds 15. The MyKilgore App is the most efficient way to report potholes and other city concerns, so please download it today!

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Fire Marshal Riley attended the Texas Fire Chiefs Association 2nd in Command workshop in College Station, Texas, from January 15th through the 17th. The workshop is designed for fire professionals to openly discuss topics, tactics, and policies within the fire industry.
- With the last few weeks of bad weather, the Fire Department has run multiple motor vehicle accidents, structure fires (in and outside the city limits), and several power line calls.
- Our newest Police Officer, Jasiaha Boaz, was sworn in during a ceremony following the completion of his pre-service training. He will be assigned to the FTO program. Jasiaha is a graduate of KHS and has moved back to Kilgore from Marshall, where he had been working for MPD.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- The City Council has approved a zone change at 803 Hunter Street from Single Family (R1) to Single Family (R3).
- The City Council appointed Andy Chilcoat to the Planning and Zoning Board for a two-year term.
- At the Planning and Zoning Board Meeting on January 23, Jason Pierson was sworn in as a new Board Member for a two-year term. Congratulations Jason! Also, Karol Pruett was voted in as the new Chairman.
- The permit office issued 679 building and trade permits in 2023, an increase of 73 over 2022.
- Site development permits were implemented this year. The permit office has issued seven site development permits since May 2023. This included projects for new townhomes on Stone Rd, 7- Brew, Composite Pipe's new facility, and Kilgore College's CDL facility.
- Commercial businesses were busy with 13 new construction projects, three additions, and 16 remodels, not to mention the 32 new or refaced signs.
- Roof permits increased due to several storms this year for both commercial and residential, totaling 185 issued. Trade permits keep us busy this year with 146 electrical, 47 mechanical, 23 driveway, and 133 plumbing permits.
- Residents of Kilgore were busy with home improvements, with 16 new residential accessory buildings, five additions, ten remodels/repairs, and six new swimming pools.
- New single-family homes totaled 31 this year, nine more than the previous year. Certificates of Occupancy were issued for 22 home completions. In almost every area, we increased permits issued over 2022. Kilgore is growing!

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Visit Kilgore will welcome a new Tourism Manager, who is set to begin on Monday, February 12th!

LIBRARY

- The Kilgore Public Library has a beautiful new front storm door, and a special thank you goes to Keith Yorgason for his help! (see photo attached).
- Thanks to the Kilgore Fire Department for assisting us in returning all of our Christmas decorations to the basement. We could not decorate so extensively without their help in set up and take down!
- “Love of Reading” program on Beanstack starts February 1st!

