**Agenda Item Attachment**

**March 19, 2019 City Council Meeting**

**Agenda Item: 17**

**Submitted by: City Manager**

**Reviewed by:**

**Budgeted Item: N/A**

**For Action: Yes**

**Attachments: None**

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Ditch Clearing by Street Department

**Discussion:**

Alderman Watts requested we address street ditch clearing by some schedule. To that end we have taken the issue up in production meetings. The excavator (our equipment) for ditch clearing was damaged last year, and has this week come back to an operable status. We will start on MLK street in the north, and begin clearing the ditches proceeding to the south. Then we will go east on MLK. Next, we will do Willow street which is another major N/S route. The City Manager will add streets as we go radiating from those areas as a starting point unless the council has other roads they want to move up in priority. The roads in that area are most in need of attention in the opinion of Management.

We will tie tree clearing to the ditch clearing as much as possible to follow along behind including removal of the limbs. City Management feels however that it is reasonable to expect residents to pick up trash immediately in the area of their own homes. The City will never have the resources to pickup all the carelessly discarded trash in San Augustine unless the town helps with their own litter.

Clearing of ditches requires locates be called in and care taken not to dig up utilities. We will generally do street ditches by this order:

1. Areas where drainage ditch already exists, and we can move quickly.
2. Areas where ditches can be restored without redirecting water into someone’s property causing new issues or damage.
3. Areas where ditches used to be, but have not been maintained over the years such that it may require engineering to restore them. We will come back to these areas.

Some areas may require utility relocation, owner coordination and installation of new culverts. Management recommends we try and avoid incurring costs for major installations of culverts until we can budget for that activity. We will also cause issues with mail carriers as well, and we don’t want to get in the business of moving boxes and reworking culverts all over town without adequate preparation. In some cases where we find future funds to replace roadways it might make more sense to fix drainage with the roads.

**Recommended Motions:**

None needed unless council wants to amend the recommendation.

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