



ANNUAL REPORT
2020

[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/ANNUALREPORT](https://meridiancity.org/annualreport)

2020 IN REVIEW

BY MAYOR SIMISON

The year of 2020 will go down in history and I hope beyond the masks and sanitizer, we remember the challenges we faced and the important lessons we learned last year. The biggest was that it takes everyone in the community working together for us to be successful. The responsibility to keep our kids learning, family, friends, and neighbors safe and healthy, and our economy thriving fell on each of us. It was a responsibility none of us could bear alone and required us to work together, adapt, and find new and creative ways of doing things.

We took this to heart here at the City and made a number of adjustments to our daily operations in order to keep our employees and customers safe while allowing City business to move forward. Over the past year, City staff innovated, pivoted, reimagined and changed the way we do business. Whether at home or behind a mask and plexiglass, our team worked to ensure our premier customer standards never wavered.

In the midst of the hardest year we've experienced as a community, we continued to press forward to achieve some great accomplishments. When customers couldn't come to us, we tapped into new technology



that allowed us to take City business to the homes and offices of customers. We came to learn the new way of doing business increased transparency, provided more opportunities for customer participation and increased efficiency.

The year shined a bright light on our employees as they proved their dedication to serving Meridian. In this report, you'll see that we made huge strides in public safety, became a more responsive government, and continued to focus our efforts on becoming the West's premier city in which to live, work, and raise a family. But don't take my word for it, look at 2020 in a different light and let's build on our successes in the coming year!


ROBERT SIMISON
Mayor - City of Meridian

STRATEGIC GROWTH

STRATEGIC GROWTH

Good growth fuels a city. Meridian will promote growth that enhances its vision and is family-focused, properly planned, financially viable, and diverse.



TRANSPORTATION & EDUCATION

While the City does not have jurisdiction over Meridian's roads, sidewalks, and schools, the responsibility for these important areas to progress responsibly falls on all of us.

Mayor Simison, the Meridian City Council and staff have worked closely with partner agencies such as West Ada School District and the Ada County Highway District to ensure we are growing cohesively as a community.

As part of these efforts, we created a new position in the Community Development department that serves as a liaison between the City and our partners in education and transportation.

The Comprehensive Associate Planner works to understand, plan, and mitigate impacts of proposed development on schools and the transportation network, advocating to advance solutions for the long-range transportation and education needs of Meridian.

139

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED

119,350

POPULATION (PER COMPASS ESTIMATE)

3.8B

GALLONS OF WATER DISTRIBUTED TO CUSTOMERS

STRATEGIC GROWTH

WASTEWATER RESOURCE AND RECOVERY FACILITY EXPANSION, UPGRADE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

2020 marked the completion of the Wastewater Resource and Recovery Facility (WRRF) expansion project, a massive undertaking four years in the making.

This project expanded the hydraulic capacity of our Wastewater Treatment Facility. This \$44M project added 50% to the facility's capacity allowing the City to continue to support growth in the community and meet stringent permit requirements. The expansion consisted of construction of a new liquid process treatment train which includes two new primary clarifiers, four new aeration basins, two new secondary clarifiers and several new buildings to increase the treatment capacity to 15 million gallons per day. This project occurred in conjunction with the Headworks Upgrade project.

The WRRF was awarded the 2020 Pollution Prevention Award by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for substantial

efforts to reduce the generation of pollution in Idaho. As one of only three organizations recognized throughout the State for this achievement in 2020, and as one of only three cities to receive the award in nearly twenty years, we are very proud of our continued efforts to be a friend and protector of the environment.

The WRRF, through its capital design projects, incorporated pollution prevention strategies to significantly cut down on the amount of waste and untreatable solids entering the wastewater treatment facility. These upgrades also save time and energy that would otherwise be required to remove those contaminants in the treatment process.

These improvements are also helping reduce nitrogen and phosphorus in wastewater effluent while also increasing treatment capacity to support continued growth in the City.



ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

Jobs make a city vibrant. Meridian will recruit family-wage jobs and promote the growth of existing organizations in employment zones that put work and life together.

THERE FOR OUR BUSINESSES

In an effort to assist local businesses in reopening, the Meridian City Council allocated \$1 million of CARES Act funding to establish a grant program to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Qualifying businesses were able to apply for up to \$15,000 in the form of reimbursements for eligible expenses.

In a four month period, staff processed 157 applications from Meridian businesses seeking assistance. In total, the City awarded \$1 million to over 90 small businesses.

Meridian also partnered with the Idaho Women's Business Center and City of Kuna for a webinar series of marketing workshops for small businesses and entrepreneurs to provide guidance and tips on navigating 2020's ever-changing business landscape.

THERE FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Department initiatives also assisted residents in need. The federally-funded Community Development Block Grant program assisted three dozen households with housing and utility expenses, impacting 103 Meridian residents; funded extended care scholarships for 18 children; modernized 49 streetlights in three neighborhoods; and installed over 1,000 linear feet of sidewalks, including ADA-compliant curb cuts and ramps.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Demand for industrial space outpaced other market segments, with several major facilities opening. JST Manufacturing moved into its headquarters bringing 75 highly-skilled advanced manufacturing jobs; and FedEx opened its doors on a new 120,000-square-foot distribution facility, adding several hundred jobs. With a vacancy rate below one percent, the Meridian industrial market is strong.

\$155M

NEW COMMERCIAL
BUILDING
VALUATION

76.2%

HOME OWNERSHIP
RATE

3,733

JOBS ADDED

ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

DESTINATION DOWNTOWN

2020 proved to be a pivotal year for downtown as catalyst projects took shape and several new businesses opened. Downtown is the historic heart of the community and continues to serve as a destination, drawing in both long-time residents and visitors.

Old Town Lofts, a mixed-use project, began construction in 2020 and will open its doors to 103 residential units as well as ground floor retail and office space in late summer 2021.

Keller Associates, Inc. began construction on their headquarters which is expected to open in fall 2021, bringing 75 employees to its new facility with more room to grow.

A new urban renewal district was established, encompassing 16 acres in the downtown core. The new Union District will capture revenue to fund public infrastructure improvements in the District.

The Union 93 development, on the former Union Pacific property, will add more than 300 residential units and 15,000 square feet of retail.

OFFICE, REDEFINED

As larger urban areas experienced an exodus of companies, more than 750,000 square feet of new office space was delivered and occupied. Ten Mile Crossing, Silverstone, El Dorado and Eagle View Landing continued to be sought-after locations. Corporations like PillPack and Perspecta sited Pacific Northwest offices in Meridian, while existing area businesses such as ICCU, J-U-B Engineers, First American Title, CompuNet and AmeriBen chose to expand operations here in Meridian.

Meridian's strong health care core continues to flourish, adding new practitioner offices throughout the City. Saltzer Health opened its 145,000-square-foot facility featuring surgery and imaging centers as well as Idaho's only 24-hour urgent care facility.



ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

A premier community embraces cultural diversity and promotes an abundant offering of arts, entertainment, and recreational opportunities. Meridian will invest in services, facilities, programs, and partnerships to establish itself as an active and vibrant community that fulfills the diverse cultural and recreational needs of its people.

RECREATION REPRIEVE

In communities across the country, including Meridian, parks and pathways have seen dramatic increases in use this year as people sought refuge and respite from the COVID-19 pandemic. With public health guidelines recommending staying close to home, urban residents have been using public spaces in unprecedented numbers as places to exercise, be closer to nature, socialize and dine at social distances.



MERIDIAN HOMECOURT UPGRADES

Meridian Homecourt, our 49,000 square foot sports and recreation facility, offers Meridian sports enthusiasts a place to play a variety of popular sports throughout the week. Homecourt was recently renovated to include flexible gym space for community classes, camps and activities. Other recent improvements include the resurfacing of its four full-sized hardwood courts, a switch to LED lighting, new court divider curtains, a new front office, restroom renovations and the addition of four family changing rooms.

In addition to basketball, the Meridian Homecourt's hardwood courts can transition to accommodate 12 pickleball courts and six

volleyball courts. A 7,000 square foot area at the south end of the building was recently remodeled with multi-purpose flooring. This area is now used for activities such as dance, cheerleading, martial arts, and tumbling. When not in use for classes, it can also be utilized for pickleball, volleyball, and other uses.

Meridian Homecourt programs and event offerings have varied throughout the pandemic, but the Homecourt improvements and dedicated staff are looking forward to welcoming our active residents back when guidelines allow.

ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION



PUBLIC ART

Sprinkled about the city are several new public art pieces for everyone to enjoy. Residents will find *Illuminations* in Renaissance Park, a piece that celebrates the Renaissance period. Champion Park is now home to *Champion's Flame* which represents a competitive spirit, pulling inspiration from the Olympic flame. Also new to Meridian is *A Day at the Office* which kneels proudly in front of Meridian's newest fire station on Overland Road. These works of art were commissioned by the Meridian Arts Commission and will be enjoyed by many residents for years to come.

REIMAGINING TRADITIONS

"Bah Humbug" is not in Meridian's vocabulary. The year brought great opportunity to re-imagine beloved traditions in the community into safe events aligning with the Health District's guidelines.

Residents were able to participate in activities ranging from Science and Engineering to Art in a new way. The summer kicked off with a virtual Public Works Week celebration and in September we hosted our annual Meridian Art Week event, connecting the community to art through virtual programming and outside activities.

We rounded off the year with a virtual tree lighting where Mayor Simison joined the community over social media in a countdown to the holiday season. Santa even got creative last year, connecting with Meridian kids by way of Zoom.

678

RECREATION
CLASSES &
ACTIVITIES

334

ACRES OF
MAINTAINED
PARK LAND

82

TREES ADDED
TO THE PARKS
SYSTEM

ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

16.5

MILES OF
PATHWAYS

1,078

SHELTER
RESERVATIONS

98

ARTISTS HOSTED
BY INITIAL POINT
GALLERYWRAPPING MERIDIAN
WITH ARTWORK

Through efforts of the Meridian Arts Commission, Meridian has ten new traffic box wraps created by local artists. More than half of the new art designs installed during the past year were created by students of the West Ada School District. The new installations now bring Meridian's total number of wrapped traffic boxes to 72. The Arts Commission plans to add ten new traffic box wraps throughout the city each year. The traffic box wrap program turns electrical boxes found on sidewalks and street corners into a collection of small public art pieces. The wraps not only beautify and add interest, color and uniqueness to our urban landscape, but also greatly reduce the potential for graffiti on the boxes and the maintenance hours that would be required to clean them. It offers a great opportunity to enhance the vitality and vibrancy of our community while showcasing the talent of artists all around us.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
@MERIDIANPARKSANDRECREATION



ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

PATHWAY PROGRESS

Meridian's rapidly expanding pathways system continues to improve community connectivity while expanding the range of amenities available to walkers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The James Court Sidewalk Widening project was completed last fall, after several years of effort to obtain multiple easements from adjacent property owners. Located in a densely-populated residential area, the new pathway has doubled in size to a 10-foot sidewalk with pedestrian ramps. It also forged a stronger connection between two existing segments of the Five Mile Creek Pathway.

Construction also began on the City's first-ever trailhead project, the Ten Mile Trailhub. Located on the east side of Ten Mile Road at the Five Mile Pathway, the project was catalyzed when ACHD offered a 1.5 acre parcel to the city for development under a permanent license agreement. An entry road, parking lot, pedestrian bridge crossing of Five Mile Creek, and signaled pedestrian crossing of Ten Mile Road were built in conjunction with the road widening. Since then, the City has added sidewalks, pathways, and concrete pavers.

The City envisions this project as a "gateway" to Meridian's pathway system.

The Pine Avenue Rest Stop is another recent project which provides users with a small but pleasant rest stop and trailhead-type amenities. New and future features include a drinking fountain, shade trees, seating, a bike repair station, and pathway signage.

2020 also brought progress on the Fairview Avenue Connection, which will add a safer, more defined pathway connection from Five Mile Creek to Lakes Place and will formalize a pedestrian connection from newly developed pathways South of Ustick Road to Locust Grove. Another fast-hitting project that emerged this past year was the Whitestone Pathway Connection, near Franklin and Linder. This includes a pedestrian bridge across Ten Mile Creek and a new pathway segment designed to enhance safe routes to school and pedestrian connectivity in the area.

Work also continues to progress on Meridian's Rail with Trail project. We are currently working to obtain easements with the goal of adding a new one-mile pathway segment connecting Meridian and Linder Roads.



ARTS, CULTURE & RECREATION

THE CITY TAKES OVER LAKEVIEW GOLF CLUB

In November, the City of Meridian officially took ownership over Meridian's only public golf course, Lakeview Golf Club. Lakeview is an 18-hole par 72 golf course. It is equipped with a full-service clubhouse, bar and grill, pro shop, golf cart rentals, driving range, and practice area. It offers men's and women's golf associations, junior golf programs, golf lessons and packages, and can host tournaments and special events.

The land Lakeview Golf Club sits on has been owned by the City of Meridian since 1978, with daily business operations and upkeep managed by a series of local tenants over the years. For the past 15 years, Lakeview Golf Club had been operated and managed by Lakeview Meridian Investors. As this company transitioned out of the business, it made sense that Meridian's two recreation agencies - Western Ada Recreation District and Meridian Parks and Recreation - partner on this new endeavor.

Under the new organizational structure, the Western Ada Recreation District (WARD) entered into a purchase and sale agreement to buy out Lakeview Meridian Investors. As part of the agreement, WARD turned over daily management and maintenance operations to the City.

The partnership allows the public course and the remainder of the club's assets to be brought into public ownership.



In 2021, the City of Meridian will work to evaluate the current condition of Lakeview Golf Club and begin to develop a Master Plan for the course. They will be assisted in this effort by experts from the National Golf Foundation. This planning effort will involve the public, nearby residents and other stakeholders. Along with the new Master Plan efforts, a review of the capital facility needs including the irrigation system is also under way.

The City is excited for the future of Lakeview Golf Club, a true gem in Meridian. We look forward to introducing the sport of golf to more residents through premier programs and events in the years to come.

SAFE, HEALTHY & SECURE

SAFE, HEALTHY & SECURE

For a community to prosper, it must be safe, healthy, and secure. Meridian will invest in activities and services that enhance public safety and community health to build a stronger community and promote the quality of life that its citizens and employees expect.

7,895

CALLS FOR SERVICE
(MFD)

6:35

AVERAGE
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TIME
(MFD)

128

POLICE OFFICERS

EXPANDING CRIME PREVENTION

Meridian has established its first Apartment Community Crime Prevention Program which focuses around educating and collaborating with our multi-family housing management groups. The program looks at ways to keep these communities safe through the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and additional crime prevention education and training.

PURPLE VEHICLE JOINS FLEET

Part of our efforts to shine a light on the dangers of domestic violence included the addition of a new purple police vehicle to the fleet. The Meridian Police Department was joined by local partners and survivors as they unveiled the vehicle, strengthening alliances as we work together to put an end to this all too common abuse.

Mayor Simison joined neighboring elected officials in the signing of a Domestic Violence Awareness proclamation in October. He was joined by City staff who together sported purple to help raise awareness for the cause. Awareness is one of the best ways to break stigmas surrounding domestic violence and help impacted residents feel supported.



SAFE, HEALTHY & SECURE

WELCOMING NEW K9 PARTNERS

Meridian Police Department welcomed three new K9's to the team in 2020. K9's "Grizz", "KB", and "Tuso" went through a rigorous training process before joining their handlers at MPD.

K9 KB was named after longtime Councilmember Keith Bird who was a cheerleader for the department in endeavors ranging from prevention and education to enforcement.

K9 Tuso's purchase was made possible by a monetary donation from the Tuso family in memory of Jon Tuso's late wife, a lover of dogs.

NEW SERVICES TO SOUTH MERIDIAN

In March, Meridian opened its sixth fire station, a much needed addition to the south side of the city.

Fire Station Six helps the Fire Department maintain the premier level of service they have worked to establish. The new location allows first responders to reach residents in need even faster.

The new fire station not only enhances public safety for our residents, its unique design also protects our firefighters reducing their carcinogen exposure through better air purification technology.



SAFE, HEALTHY & SECURE

389

HOMES CHECKED
FOR SMOKE
ALARMS

1,988

ARRESTS

100

NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH LIAISONS

BREAKING GROUND

Meridian broke ground on a Scenario Training Center for Meridian's first responders. This \$3.5M training center will be a two-story building totaling 11,698 square feet. The facility will feature an indoor scenario village with multi-functional learning spaces. The faux streetscape includes buildings that accurately resemble residential living spaces and several commercial-style storefronts, equipped with real lights, providing first responders both variety and realism when training for scenarios. The interiors of all of the buildings can be reconfigured for any police, fire or medical emergency scenario. The Scenario Training Center is projected to be complete in summer 2021.



SAFE, HEALTHY & SECURE

PREVENTION IS KEY

Meridian public safety staff can typically be found out and about in the community, engaging with residents on important safety topics. The pandemic couldn't put a pause on the City's prevention efforts, some of which are more important than ever with residents of all ages spending more time at home. Our fire prevention team was able to reach nearly 1,000 people with a virtual CPR class and were able to certify 51 people who are now properly trained and ready in the case of a cardiac emergency. Safety presentations and education events moved forward in digital form, reaching over 30,000 participants.

The team was also able to teach Meridian elementary students in the classroom and virtually about the importance of fire safety. The team used virtual/video tools to educate students, families, and businesses on fire safety, the maintenance and upkeep of smoke alarms, exit planning, and the proper use of child passenger seats.

Additionally, thanks to community partnerships, they were able to provide 50 families in need with a free car seat and checked an additional 158 seats to ensure a safe installation and fit.

ALARMS SAVE LIVES

The Meridian Fire Department assisted 389 Meridian homes with smoke alarm maintenance and installation last year. Meridian's SAFE program (Smoke Alarms For Everyone) works to ensure that every Meridian home is equipped with working smoke alarms. Residents that do not have working smoke alarms or need assistance with their smoke alarms can contact the Meridian Fire Department's Public Education Division for help.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
@MERIDIANFIREDPARTMENT
@MERIDIANPD



RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

The successful government of the 21st century is service driven, approachable, and responsive. Meridian will embody those qualities by improving efficiency, enhancing transparency, utilizing technology, and investing in our employees.

CITY SERVICES GO VIRTUAL

Over the course of 2020, the City shifted services online allowing City business to move forward. Business owners can now apply for alcohol and catering permits with the click of a mouse which has proven to be especially helpful for returning customers. Developers can also work their way through the building permit process, submitting plans and drawings online without making a special trip to City Hall. Improving these processes has saved time for both staff and customers, reduced paper waste, and improved efficiency.

We invested in a new audio set up in the Council Chambers that allows for smooth streaming of public meetings and, with the help of today's available technologies, the community can participate and provide public testimony on important topics from the comfort of their home or office.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Part of being a responsive government is asking our varying populations what they need in the community. When asked, our golden population expressed the need for more opportunities geared toward seniors. The Mayor's Senior Advisory Board (MSAB)

advocated for the installation of a new six-piece outdoor gym in Meridian's Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park.

The new park amenity, located just west of the Meridian Senior Center, was made possible through a process called participatory budgeting as approved by Meridian City Council. MSAB joined forces with the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department and Engineered Structures, Inc. to create an outdoor gym designed to incorporate elements of a well-rounded fitness routine, accessible by users of all ages, fitness levels and abilities. While the Board ensured the equipment and location is accessible for Meridian's senior population, it is open to all residents looking for a fun way to exercise.



RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

STREETLIGHT UPGRADES

Four projects were completed last year to upgrade 125 streetlights to LED bulbs. The projects received nearly \$8K in energy efficient incentives from Idaho Power and the annual power savings from these upgrades will be approximately \$3.5K each year. We expect to see a savings of nearly \$80k in maintenance cost over the next 20 years.



COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS

Our team has stayed in close contact with local health agencies to deliver timely and accurate COVID-19 information to Meridian residents. Our COVID-19 information and resource page at meridiacity.org/coronavirus hosts important information regarding local health orders, virus data, public meetings, education impacts and vaccination distribution.



WATER TREATMENT

The City's Water Division completed its fifth water treatment facility in 2020 at Well 28, located in southeast Meridian. In the corner of Meridian's growth area, Well 28 contained undesirable levels of iron and manganese. While compliant with drinking water standards, elevated levels of iron and manganese can cause discolored water. The filter treatment system added to the well removes over 95% of the iron and manganese that naturally exists in the aquifer. Approximately 60% of Meridian's daily water supply is now under treatment and six additional wells are slated to have treatment added over the next five years.



35

E-NEWSLETTERS
SENT

3,557

PERMITS/LICENSES
ISSUED

1,818

PASSPORT
APPLICATIONS
PROCESSED

CITY BUDGET



A RESPONSIBLE & BALANCED BUDGET

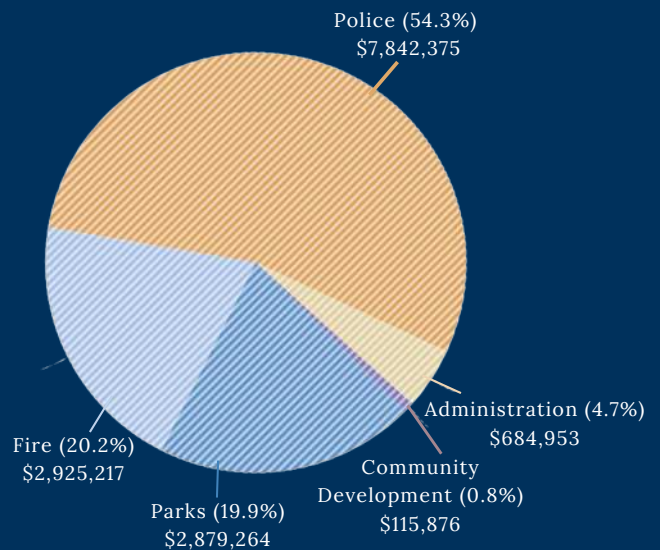
The City of Meridian takes a conservative, responsible, and transparent approach to our annual operating budget. We take our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously, and understand that each dollar we are entrusted with must show results for our customers.

The City's financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is fiscally sustainable. This requires a proactive approach to budgeting revenues; long range financial planning and economic forecasting; saving for large capital projects; and collaboration between all of the City's departments.

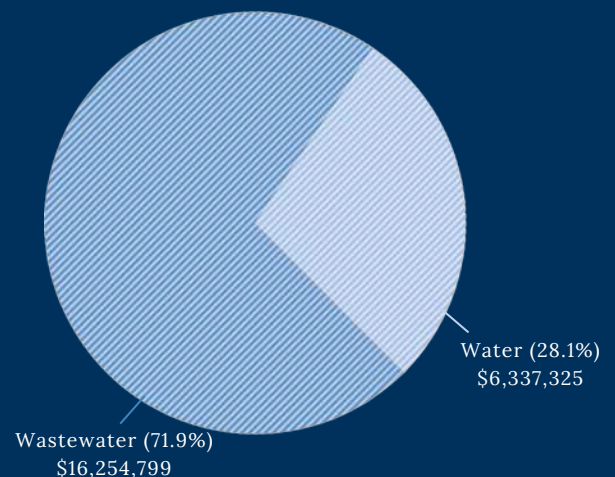
The **GENERAL FUND** pays for basic City services: Community Development and Planning, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police and Administration.

The **ENTERPRISE FUND** provides water and sewer service to Meridian residents and businesses. This fund is financed completely with fees. There are two principal types of fees: user fees, which are based on each customer's system usage, and connection fees, which are paid when a new structure "connects" to the utility system.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



CITY BUDGET

A TRANSPARENT & OPEN GOVERNMENT

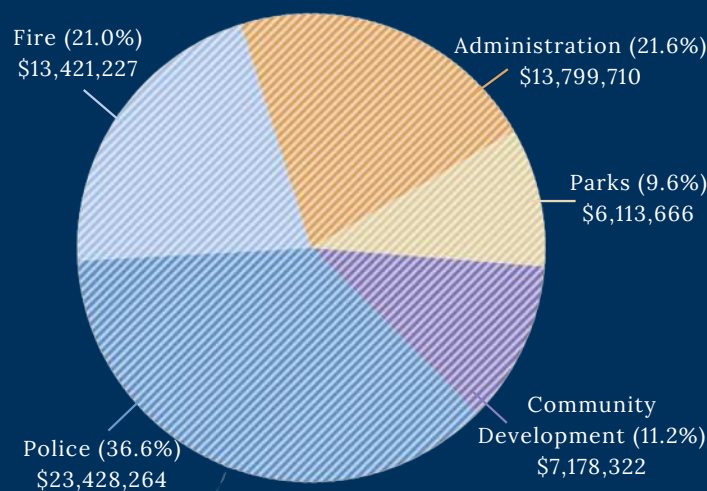
The City's financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is fiscally sustainable. This requires a proactive approach to budgeting revenues; long range financial planning and economic forecasting; saving for large capital projects; and collaboration between all of the City's departments. The link at the bottom of this page will lead you to the Fiscal Year 2021 budgets which began October 1, 2020. On this website, you will find links to the operating and capital budgets for the General Fund and Enterprise Fund. Utilizing the OpenGov software, you can take a deeper look into any part of the budget that you wish to see. Keep clicking and you can truly see how we put each dollar to work for our residents.

Our transparency extends to our budgeting process, where we live stream our budget hearings and invite residents to voice their opinions prior to approving the budget.

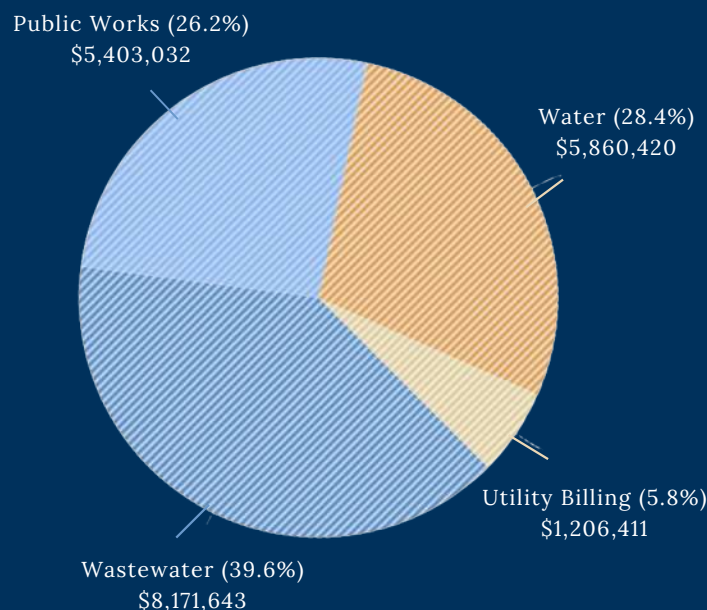
[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/FINANCE](https://meridiancity.org/finance)

Please note: Capital is a one-time investment and the operating budget illustrates ongoing expenses.

GENERAL FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



ENTERPRISE FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



MERIDIAN LEADERSHIP



ROBERT SIMISON

MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL



LIZ STRADER



JOE BORTON



BRAD HOAGLUN



TREG BERNT



JESSICA PERREAULT

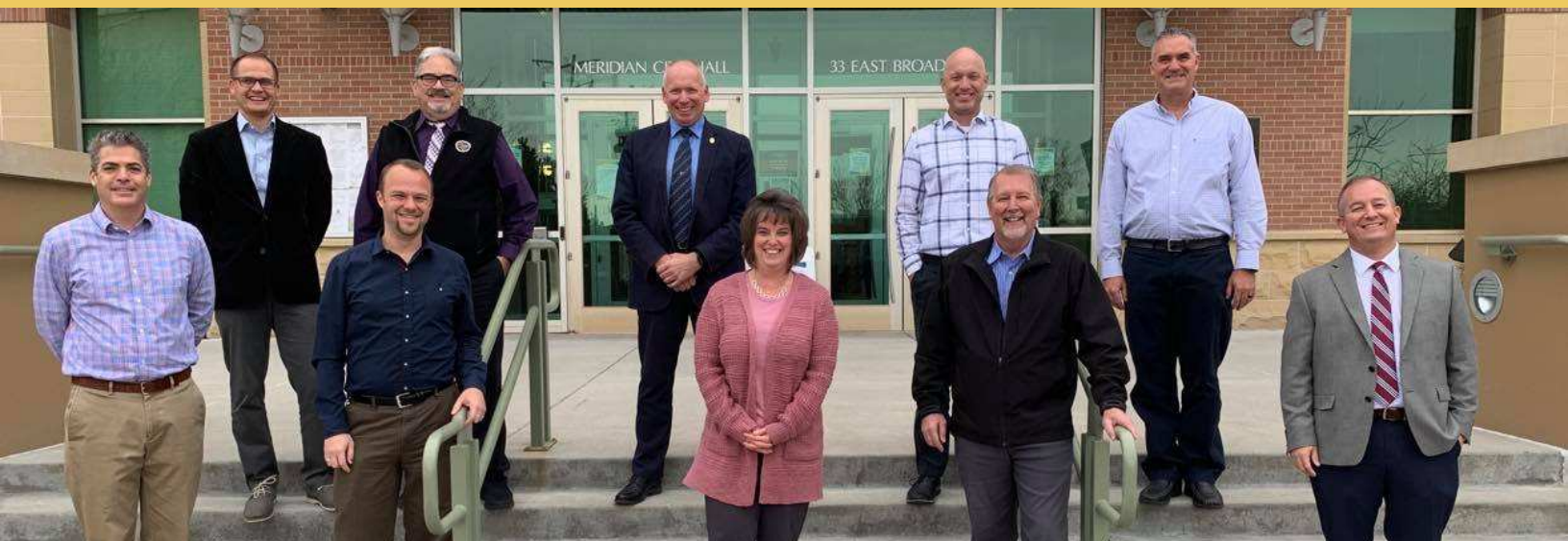


LUKE CAVENER

Meridian City Council meets on the first four Tuesdays of each month at 4:30 p.m. for a Work Session, and again at 6:00 p.m. for the City Council Meeting which includes Public Hearings. For information on how to submit public testimony or attend a meeting in person or virtually, visit meridiacity.org/virtualmeeting.

MERIDIANCITY.ORG/COUNCIL

MERIDIAN LEADERSHIP



THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

PUBLIC WORKS

Dale Bolthouse
Director

FINANCE

Todd Lavoie
Chief Financial Officer

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Cameron Arial
Director

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dave Tiede
Chief Information Officer

MAYOR'S OFFICE

David Miles
Chief of Staff

FIRE

Mark Niemeyer
Outgoing Fire Chief

PARKS & RECREATION

Steve Siddoway
Director

POLICE

Jeff Lavey
Outgoing Chief of Police

HUMAN RESOURCES

Crystal Ritchie
Director

MERIDIAN CARE VALUES

Customer Service

Accountability

Respect

Excellence



ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS

#3

Best Places to Live 2020

MONEY MAGAZINE



#7

Idaho's 10 Safest Cities

SAFEWISE



#1

Best Suburbs to Live in Idaho

NICHE



#1

Best Places to Live in Idaho

HOMESNACKS



ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS



#1
Best Cities to Live
in Every State
MSN.COM



#3
Fastest Growing
Cities in the U.S.
WALLET HUB



#5
15 Best Places to
Live in Idaho
THE CRAZY TOURIST



86%
Customer
Satisfaction Rate
2020 CITIZEN SURVEY

ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS

MAYOR'S LEGACY AWARD

Mayor Simison presented the 2020 Mayor's Legacy Award to long-time Parks and Recreation Commissioner Creg Steele. A local business owner, youth advocate and champion of parks, Creg has dedicated his life to Meridian and those who call it home.



Creg also received a Citation of Merit – Outstanding Individual award from the Idaho Recreation and Park Association. This well deserved award rounded off 20 years of service to the Meridian Parks and Recreation Commission. 2020 marked Creg's last year on the Commission and we thank him for his continued dedication to the community.

MERIDIAN STARS

Mayor Simison and City Council Members presented the 2020 Meridian Stars Awards to a group of deserving individuals and businesses within the community (below). The annual award recognizes Meridian residents and businesses that demonstrate a commitment to preserving, maintaining and improving the quality of life and safety in our neighborhoods and community.

Each year, we look to the community to submit nominations of deserving individuals or organizations that deserve recognition for their above-and-beyond attitudes and commitment to the community.



NOMINATE A STAR
MERIDIANCITY.ORG/NOMINATEASTAR

Neighbor of the Year
Paula Harlow



Large Business of the Year
Western States CAT



Small Business of the Year
@HelloMeridian



Senior of the Year
Eva Bailey



Youth of the Year
Hannah Chalom



Senior of the Year
Bill Bowman



ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS

TALKIN' TRASH

Meridian was recognized by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for our efforts in connecting with residents through social media on the topics of trash and recycling. Established in 2018, the Meridian Trash Talk group on Facebook created a public platform for residents to ask questions, share insights, and receive important information from the City. In 2020, the group surpassed 1,000 members, many of whom engage regularly on the complex issues surrounding solid waste. This growing effort received an Exceptional Performance Award from the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the APWA.



A UNIFIED APPROACH



A Standardized Approach To School Safety For All Idaho Schools

The City of Meridian was honored with the City Achievement Award in the category of Public Safety from the Association of Idaho Cities.

The City Achievement Award, which recognizes the work of cities around Idaho that have implemented pioneering approaches to improve quality of life, address community challenges, and enhance service delivery in cost effective ways, was given to the City of Meridian for implementation of a statewide safety communications program.



The program, Idaho Standard Command Responses for Schools (ISCRS) is lead by Meridian Police Lieutenant Shawn Harper and Meridian Fire Deputy Chief Joe Bongiorno. The ISCRS program was developed by the Treasure Valley School Safety Committee, spearheaded by Meridian.

The primary goal of the ISCRS framework is to standardize communication and procedures for school personnel and students during emergency response.

ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS

DISCOVER OUR AWARD WINNING PARKS!

The City of Meridian was presented with two awards by the Idaho Recreation and Park Association (IRPA) during the group’s annual conference. Discovery Park received the Outstanding Park or Facility Award.

The IRPA’s 2020 Outstanding Park or Facility Award recognizes outstanding or unique achievements in parks and recreation facility design, or development in new construction and/or major rehabilitation projects.

The initial phase of Discovery opened in the summer of 2019, is filled with unique amenities designed to encourage hands-on learning and experiential play and to educate park users about the state of Idaho.

The park is built on farmland which was purchased by the City of Meridian in 2009 in anticipation of the area’s projected growth. Its initial phase currently occupies 27 acres. Upon completion, the park will occupy approximately 70 acres, making it Meridian’s largest regional city park. Discovery Park is located along Lake Hazel Road, between Eagle and Locust Grove.



STAY IN THE KNOW



FIND US ONLINE

Whether you're new to the area or have deep roots in Meridian, you can find valuable community information on our website. Our homepage allows you to navigate our departments, connect with City Council and pay your utility bill.

[MERIDIANCITY.ORG](https://www.meridiandcity.org)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The City's website plays host to a community calendar. Visit the calendar to keep up on public events and happenings throughout Meridian or to add your own community events for others to find.

[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/CALENDAR](https://www.meridiandcity.org/calendar)

SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES

The City of Meridian is committed to keeping the community in the know on all things happening. We send out a bi-monthly e-newsletter and share news releases as important information becomes available. We encourage residents to subscribe for these updates on our website.

[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/SUBSCRIBE](https://www.meridiandcity.org/subscribe)



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