

January 6, 2003

Mayor and Council Members,

On January 24, we will come together at the Annual City Council Retreat at the Aspen Lodge. This annual gathering allows the City Council and staff to examine important issues in more depth than we frequently can at regular meetings or study sessions.

The Council has identified several issues that it would like to address. Brief papers and background material on each one is included in this notebook for your review. While at the retreat, we will spend time gaining a better understanding of the issues. This process will include discussing what is already being done and determining the appropriate role for the City organization to play in the future. Work plan items or additional research, if needed, will be assigned based on the City Council's desired outcomes.

As you know, the Council had indicated a desire to use a Saturday per quarter to explore important issues during 2003. Service priorities / Budget balancing and transportation issues have been previously identified as the first two items. We should further discuss the concept of the in-city mini retreat as we develop the work plan in January.

We have reserved time on the agenda for council members to share their expectations for the retreat as well as their concerns and/or vision for Longmont in the future. Please be prepared to spend five minutes sharing your thoughts as we kick off the retreat on Friday.

A list of the major 2003 department work plan items is included in this notebook. In an effort to allow as much time on the agenda as possible to discuss the issues identified by Council, staff members will not make presentations on their work plans. However, there will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.

The staff and I look forward to spending time with you as we discuss ways to further enhance our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gordon Pedrow
City Manager