



Minnetrista Messenger

2021 Fall/Winter Newsletter

"The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character."

Mayor's Message

By the time this newsletter reaches your mailboxes, Thanksgiving will have just passed. I hope that you have a lot to be thankful for despite the ongoing pandemic. A lot has been going on at City Hall over the past several months!

There have been several staffing changes at the city. In September, City Administrator Mike Barone announced his retirement. Mike began his tenure with the city in 2009 as the Assistant City Administrator, and in 2015 he was promoted to the City Administrator position. For the past 7 years as Mayor, I have had the honor and privilege of working with Mike. His dedication to his job and our community is greatly appreciated, and he will be missed. His last day with the city will be December 17, 2021. Finding his replacement will be a big task, and the Council hired an executive search firm to help us find the best candidate to fill this very important position. We will be congratulating Mike Barone on his retirement on December 15th at Burl Oaks Golf Course starting at 5:00 p.m. It is open to the public and if you wish to attend, please RSVP on the city's website: www.cityofminnetrista.com/events/63517/

In October, City Clerk Kris Lindquist left employment with the City of Minnetrista. The Council internally promoted Dawn Motzko to the City Clerk position. Dawn has been with the city since 2013, and we

are always excited to promote from within the organization. We are currently accepting applications to fill the Utility Billing/Recycling Coordinator vacancy.

Officer Justin Brown announced he was leaving the department in June after five years of employment. After 20 years on the Minnetrista Police Department, Sergeant Mike Kokesh announced his retirement in July 2021 as well. Two Police Officers, Jacob Therres and Spencer Koch, were hired to fill the Police Officer positions. We welcome the new employees to the City of Minnetrista and wish previous employees the best in their future endeavors.

The 2021 Street Improvement Projects are wrapping up. Hardscrabble Circle, Loring Drive, Stonebridge Drive and Minneapolis Avenue are completed. Utility work for this project is still underway due to delivery delays and supply chain issues on materials. The 2021 Municipal State Aid project this year was the reconstruction of Sunnyfield Road. The project was completed on budget and is a great improvement for the city. The 2022 Street Improvement project is well underway. Plans and specifications are being completed and will be on a future Council agenda for approval. You can read more about this on page four.

In September the Council approved a preliminary budget and levy. You can

read the article from Finance Director Brian Grimm on page three of this newsletter.

Although there has been adequate water infrastructure planned, the drought conditions experienced and the excessive demand of city water users this summer has led the City to implement a water education and conservation campaign plan. You can read more about this campaign on page three. The Council will be hosting an open house in spring of 2022 to have open communication and discussion about the City's water infrastructure. The Council recently approved a contract with Traut Companies to drill two new test wells on City property. This is the first step in drilling permanent wells and adding another treatment plant to the South Water System. The Southwest Water Tower is almost complete and ready to be filled and will provide an additional 500 thousand gallons of storage capacity. This project is one more phase completed in the City's long-range water infrastructure plan

Wishing you and yours a very happy and safe holiday season. As always,

Your Mayor,
Lisa Whalen



Water Education and Conservation Campaign

In light of the summer drought that contributed to the outdoor watering ban for much of June through August 2021, the City is rolling out a Water Education and Conservation campaign from December 2021-April 2022. The purpose of this campaign is to educate the public on the city's water infrastructure and encourage water conservation.

What can you expect?

Residents on City water supply will be receiving a monthly mailing with an education or conservation topic. Any residents that wish to receive email alerts on this campaign can go to the City's website and enter your information to get email alerts. In addition, the campaign materials will be posted on all social media platforms.

Important Winter Reminders

Winter Parking Regulations

With winter snow soon approaching, the City of Minnetrista Police Department will be enforcing the cities winter parking regulation (City Ordinance 910.01). This ordinance states:

"During the period from November 1st through March 31st of each year, no motor vehicle or any obstruction will be parked, or allowed to remain, on any city street between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am, so as to interfere with the proper removal of snow. The city is authorized to remove or cause such obstruction, whether a vehicle or other object, to be removed and the owner will be responsible for the actual costs of removal in addition to any penalties which may be imposed upon conviction of a violation of this section."

While this ordinance states no parking from 2:00 am to 6:00 am, Public Works officials asks that residents please refrain from parking on the street after a continuous snowfall, with an accumulation of two (2) inches or more of snow, until it has been plowed to the full width of the roadway. This will allow for faster and more efficient snow removal. Residents can help the snow removal efforts by shoveling around hydrants and mailboxes. Public Works also requests that residents do not place refuse and recycling containers in the roadway, please place them in your driveway.

Mailbox Reminder

It's also a good time to make sure your mailbox is ready. While mailboxes are simple fixtures along our streets, they are exposed to the worst winter has to offer: salt and moisture. Regular check-ups of the following items may help your mailbox survive another Minnesota winter.

- Check **wood** for rot, splitting posts, or other signs of decay.
- Check **metal** for rust and weak spots, especially around support connections.
- Check to make sure **screws/bolts/nails** are secure and not loose or improperly connected.
- Check **positioning**. The United States Postal Service (USPS) has specific requirements for mailboxes. When along the street, mailboxes should be between 6 and 8 inches behind the gutter line of the street and between 41 and 45 inches above the surface of the road.

Please remember the City will only repair mailboxes installed to USPS Residential Mailbox Standards and actually hit by a snowplow. The City will not be responsible for damage to mailboxes or support posts caused by snow or ice coming into contact with the mailbox. If it is found there was direct contact between the plow and mailbox, the City will repair the mailbox to an operational state. If the mailbox cannot be adequately repaired, the City will replace the mailbox with a standard size, non-decorative metal mailbox.

If you have any questions regarding winter maintenance, please call Public Works at 952-446-1312 or City Hall at 952-446-1660.

2022 Street Improvement Projects

The City Council has identified two areas for street improvements in 2022:

Jennings Bay Area

The project includes full depth pavement removal and replacement, partial replacement of deficient concrete curb and gutter, enhancements to storm drainage and minor repairs to the sanitary sewer systems of the following roads: Jennings Cove Road, East Cove Lane, Cove Circle, West Cove Lane and Upper Cove Road.

The project is proposed to be bid in January, 2022 with the majority of the work taking place between June and August, 2022.

Enchanted Island Area

An overlay of the following streets is tentatively planned for 2022: Cedar Point Road, Warner Lane, Edsall Road, St Marys Road, Wellesley Way and Lee Road. More information will be available on the city's website once the project is authorized, which is tentatively scheduled for February, 2022. Visit our website to sign up for email alerts!



2022 Preliminary Budget

On September 20, 2021, the Minnetrista City Council approved a preliminary net tax levy of \$5,216,960 for 2022. This amount calculates to a 5.53% increase over the 2021 levy amount. The final levy will be approved by the City Council on Monday, December 6, 2021. The levy cannot go above the preliminary 5.53% increase but it could be decreased.

The focus over the last several years has been to add increased funding for road maintenance and carrying out the City's pavement management plan. The roads levy portion of the levy is being increased by \$150,000 over 2021's amount. Keep in mind that the levy will be spread over more properties as the City continues to grow (over 75-100+ new homes in each of the last few years) and therefore any increases are offset proportionally as this growth comes online.

With the Council approving the preliminary levy increase for funding the 2022 City operations, it means that most homeowners will see their City portion of their tax bill to be pretty similar or a slight increase when comparing 2022 to 2021. For a median valued home of around \$504,000 you are looking at about an estimated \$23-33 annual increase (\$2-3 a month) if your property had the average valuation increase for the year.

Other factors that come into the formula are out of the city's control; such as property valuation increases/decreases, homesteading, and property classification. Taxes from other taxing jurisdictions (county, school districts, special taxing districts) can also affect your overall taxes paid as a homeowner.

On average the City portion of your total tax bill is about 20-25% of your total tax statement that comes from Hennepin County. The 2022 preliminary tax statements will be coming from Hennepin County during the month of November, and will provide details for individual properties on the factors described.

As mentioned, the City of Minnetrista will hold its annual public comment on the final levy and budget at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting at 7pm on December 6, 2021. It is at that meeting where the final levy and budgets for the City are expected to be adopted along with the 2022 fee schedule and other related financial planning documents. Additional information on the 2022 budget can be found on the City's website.



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2021 Important Dates

November 30: Southwest Water Tower
Dedication at 3:00 p.m.

December 6: City Council Work Session at
5:30 p.m.

December 6: City Council Regular Meeting
at 7:00 p.m.

December 15: Michael Barone's Retirement
Party at Burl Oaks Golf Course 5:00-7:00
p.m.

December 23: City Offices closed for observance
of Christmas Holiday

December 24: City Offices closed for Christmas
Holiday

January 3: City Council Work Session at
5:30 p.m.

January 3: City Council Regular Meeting at 7:00
p.m.



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