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City of Belle Plaine

January • 2016

Notes from the City Administrator - Year in Review Update

2015 has been another busy year for the City of Belle Plaine. We've seen exciting progress in many areas and have a number of people and organizations to thank for that success! Here are some of the highlights:

Parks and Pool - The City maintains its strong commitment to parks, trails, and the community pool. The pool again had an increase in visitors and the many special events, including the end of the season Pirate Party, were a big success. In August, the Park Board hosted the grand opening of the disc golf course at Court Square. Benches were added along the Beautiful Prairie Trail and signage will be installed in 2016.

Development - There was a continued increase in the number of new house permits. For 2015, we issued 24 new home permits. We welcomed a number of new businesses including Angie's Infant and Toddler Care, Neutral

Path Communications, and ReMax. We were also fortunate to have businesses that chose to expand in Belle Plaine including Anderson, Skubitz, and Coryell Law Office, Stier Bus Company, Rainbow Discovery Child Care, Genesis, Snap Fitness, and Ohnsorg Truck Bodies. We welcome new owners and mergers for Heng's Bakery, Subway, and Schnoepfner and Associates.

Streets - The City undertook two major projects this year - one you may not have noticed and one that is hard to miss. The 2015 Street Project included reconstruction of West Forest Street and portions of Cherry and Elk Streets. The City also started construction on the Enterprise Drive Overpass. A groundbreaking was held in October and included many of the City's partners in the project including Scott County, MnDOT, and the Met Council. The embankments and center pier were constructed this fall. Major work will begin again in spring of 2016.

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Water and Sewer Rates Increase for 2016

New water and sewer rates go into effect January, 2016 and will be reflected on the January utility bill. The City continues to review the status of its Water and Sewer Funds and make rate adjustments as necessary. Monitoring the cash flow of these funds and implementing recommended rate increases allows the City to work towards positive revenue to cover current and future debt, operations, and re-build reserves for future expansion and maintenance of the City's sewer and water infrastructure. The new utility rates are based on the 2015 Sewer and Water Study the City Council authorized through Abdo Eick and Meyers, LLP. The study took into consideration general operations, debt obligations, future expansion projects, cash flow and cash reserves. (Study available at www.belleplainemn.com.) The City enterprise funds are at a critical point due to the debt incurred from housing expansion and the downturn of the housing market that followed.

There is a 2% increase in the sewer and water base rate, senior base rate received a 0% increase; usage rates increased as projected in

the 2015 utility rate study.

The monthly residential base rate (not including usage charges) for 2016 is \$31.40; a \$0.61 monthly increase from 2015. The 2016 base rate (residential 3/4 inch meter) includes base fees of water \$9.76; sewer of \$15.46, state surcharge of \$0.53, street light fee of \$2.30, and storm sewer fee of

\$3.35. The senior monthly base rate for 2016 remains at \$18.39. The tables show the new 2016 rates and the 2015 rates for your comparison. Irrigation monthly base rate for 2016 is \$3.52, and the per thousand gallon usage fee is \$9.07 for 2016 compared to \$7.89 in 2015.

Residential Water Usage Rates		
All Usage Rates are Per 1,000 Gallons		
	2015	2016
Up to 2,000	\$2.88	\$3.31
2,001 - 4,000	\$4.33	\$4.98
4,001 and above	\$7.89	\$9.07

Residential Sewer Usage Rates		
Based on Water Usage		
	2015	2016
Up to 2,000	\$5.47	\$6.29
2,001 - 4,000	\$6.42	\$7.38
4,001 and above	\$12.96	\$14.90

Commercial Water Usage Rates		
All Usage Rates are Per 1,000 Gallons		
	2015	2016
Up to 4,000	\$2.92	\$3.36
4,001 - 24,000	\$4.38	\$5.04
24,001 and above	\$7.99	\$9.19

Commercial Sewer Usage Rates		
Based on Water Usage		
	2015	2016
Up to 4,000	\$5.54	\$6.37
4,001 - 24,000	\$6.49	\$7.46
24,001 and above	\$13.20	\$15.18

Monthly Water Base			Monthly Sewer Base Rate		
Larger meter size base rates available at www.belleplainemn.com .					
	2015	2016		2015	2016
Up to 1" Meter Size*	\$9.57	\$9.76	Up to 1" Meter Size*	\$15.16	\$15.46
Low Income Senior	\$4.74	\$4.74	Low Income Senior	\$7.58	\$7.58

Year in Review, Cont.

Police - In February, the Belle Plaine Police Department, along with the local Girl Scouts, received a Star of the North award from Congressman Kline for their Toys for Tots program. The Police Department continued its tradition of hosting a very well-attended National Night Out in August. In November an online rating website named Belle Plaine the fourth safest city in Minnesota and highlighted the Department's use of social media to reach residents. If you haven't friended them on Facebook or signed up for the Nixle updates, please do!

Finance - The City issued bonds for the 2015 Street Project and Overpass Project. The bond rating upgrade received last year was maintained. The City also included refinancing of a previous bond with the street project, saving over \$120,000 in interest. The issuance of the Municipal State Aid bond was a unique use of funds we receive from the State for the bond payments, and therefore not impacting the taxpayers.

Fire -The Belle Plaine Fire Department again saw an increase in calls this year. Working with the City Council and Rural Fire Association, the Department ordered new fire truck to replace one nearly 30 years old. The new truck should be delivered in early 2016. With the retirement and resignation of a couple of firefighters, the Department will be hiring again in 2016. Please consider being part of this important service to your community.

The City experienced challenges and successes in 2015. We lost an important member of our team in August with the tragic death of Jerry Connolly, and continue to keep his family and friends in our thoughts.

We are excited to see progress continue in 2016. Thank you to everyone who participates in city government – whether on a committee or commission, volunteers, or showing up at a public meeting. Remember YOU are the City of Belle Plaine!

Council Highlights & City Notices

December 9, 2015

- Mayor Pingalore administered the Oath of Office to newly-appointed Council Member Henry Pressley, Jr.
- Accepted public improvements of the 2013 Street Project.
- Approved temporary 3.2% intoxicating liquor license for Our Lady of the Prairie Church for fundraiser on March 5, 2016.
- Appointed Joshua Muehlenhardt, Kevin Sieben, and Sean Moriarty as seasonal Public Works employees.
- Appointed Branden Larson, Wyatt Herrmann and Michael Miller as ice rink attendants.
- Modified signatory at the State Bank of Belle Plaine.
- Approved 3-year agreement with Waste Management for refuse hauling services for city-owned properties.
- Amended reimbursement agreement for extension of storm sewer to private property at 829 and 831 Court Street West.
- Mayor Pingalore presented the Belle Plaine High School Volleyball Team with Certificates of Merit to commemorate their recent achievement as the Minnesota State Class 2A Champions.

Seeking Public Works 1 Employee

The City of Belle Plaine is accepting applications for a full-time Public Works 1 position. Duties include the care and maintenance of public streets, alleys, sidewalks, gutters, storm and sanitary sewer, drains, lighting, water systems and City equipment. High School Diploma or equivalent, 1 year experience in a related field; valid MN Class "B" (CDL) driver's license, preference for candidates who possess a water or sewer license. Salary DOQ. Applications available at City Hall or belleplainemn.com. Applications accepted until position is filled.

December 21, 2015

- Accepted public improvements of the 2014 Street Project.
- Approved 2016 salaries for certain city employees.
- Authorized update of the Belle Plaine Fire Department building.
- Mayor Pingalore presented a plaque to retiring firefighter Ben Stier.
- Adopted Ordinance 15-08, Amending Chapter 1, Section 108, by Amending the City's Fee Schedule and authorized summary publication.
- Approved the vacation of Locust Street east of Linden Street and west of Ash Street, within Prairie Park.
- Approved Charitable Gambling Premises Permit at Andy's Bar and Grill for German Days, Inc.
- Approved large assembly permit for German Days event in June, 2016.
- Authorized advertising to seek candidates for full-time Public Works Employee I.

Coffee with the Mayor

January 14, 2016 • 9:00 a.m.

McDonald's Restaurant (1050 E. Enterprise Dr.)

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