

The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

November • 2016

Hints to Help You on Election Day

- Polls are open at 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8th, 2016.
- Residents who live within the Belle Plaine City limits vote in the City Council Chambers at 218 North Meridian Street. You can verify your polling place at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.
- If you register at the polls you will need to provide identification and proof of residency. A complete list of acceptable documents can be found on the Minnesota Secretary of State website. <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-election-day/>
- An election judge will greet you when you arrive and direct you to the proper line.
- Please shut off your phone as you enter the polls.
- Use the pen/marker provided in your voting booth.
- There is a single proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot. **Failure to vote on the amendment will be counted as a "No" vote.**
- Sample ballots are available at <http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/> and is published in the **Belle Plaine Herald**.
- The heaviest traffic times are when the polls open, over lunch and after school through out the evening. Please be patient and prepared to wait in line.
- It is illegal to wear clothing, buttons or other attire bearing candidate names, logos or partisan reference into a polling place. (Minnesota Statute, section 211B.11)
- Please do not place stickers of any kind on the ballot.
- Voters may not gather or linger inside or outside the polls or within a 100 feet outside the polls.
- Election Judges will be at the polls to assist and ensure the integrity of the election process. Please respect their duties and requests.
- If you are unable to vote on election day you may vote by absentee ballot at Scott County Government Center, 200 4th Avenue West, Shakopee.
- The Minnesota Secretary of State website has all of the election information you will need, but you can also call City Hall at 952-873-5553 if you have questions.



Welcome Mike Votca!

We welcome Mike Votca as the new City Administrator! Mike started his employment with the City on October 13th. Residents are encouraged to stop by City Hall to say hello. Below are a few questions we asked Mike to get better acquainted.

You served 13-years in the U.S. Army. What prompted you to choose public administration as your career?

- While serving as an Engineer Officer in the Army, I had the opportunity to lead many organizations of various sizes. This helped me realize that I have a love of leadership and that any career that I would pursue in the future would involve a leadership role. During my Army service, I was able to work on a Master's Degree in Public Policy Administration. While working towards this degree, I realized that there are many parallels between the work that I was doing in the Army and local government administration. My last work position in the Army brought me to work very closely with the garrison staff, who are in charge of running the Army Post. I really enjoyed helping to make our community a better place and making plans for the future development of the post. Once I was ready to transition out of the Army, it seemed logical to begin my search in working for a city.



What interested you in the Belle Plaine City Administrator position?

- After working for the City of Tracy for three years, I started looking at City Administrator positions closer to south central Minnesota. I grew up in Mankato and I love this part of Minnesota and have family in this area. When I saw the position in Belle Plaine, I knew that this was a growing city and I felt that it could be a great opportunity. I immediately began to research the city and I felt it had a strong structure in place and was working on growth. I am very excited to work with the City Council and city staff to continue to provide great services in the City of Belle Plaine.

What are going to be some of your first major tasks?

- My priority is to get to know the City Council and staff and gain an understanding of how the City conducts business. I plan to listen to the experienced council members and staff. I am also looking forward to getting out into the community to meet the citizens of Belle Plaine and hear why they love this community so much and how I can assist in continuing to provide the framework of a great community.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I truly enjoy the outdoors. I spend time riding my bike on local and regional trails. I also enjoy hiking through Minnesota State Parks and exploring the beauty of Minnesota. I grew up playing hockey and football, so I take any chance I get to watch a hockey or football game.

Council Highlights & City Notices

October 3, 2016

- Amended the 2015/2016 Fire Relief Association Schedules I and II.
- Authorized the Purchase of Line Laser Equipment for the Public Works Department.

October 17, 2016

- Adopted special assessments for the 2016 Beaver Street Cul-de-Sac (Haefner Subdivision) Project.
- Approved the transfer of deed for community library property from EDA to the City.
- Authorized improvements to vacant land adjacent to library.
- Authorized the upgrade of water service for Fire Department Building.
- Appointed Nathan Bigaouette as a full time Public Works I employee.
- Mayor Pingalore presented Emily Saba and Kylee Santovi with the Public Safety Citizen's Award for their efforts in obtaining the Girl Scout Silver Award by providing a large quantity of donated items to local organizations that assist with families in need.
- Mayor Pingalore presented Jacqueline Hillstrom with an appreciation plaque for her years of service as a lifeguard and pool manager.
- Adopted special assessment for the 2016 Street Improvement Project.
- Approved variance relating to side and rear yard setback and maximum structural coverage at 148 South Meridian Street.
- Approved variance to allow above ground power line at 1300 South Street West.
- Approved Interim Use Permit for Devine Property, 1300 South Street West.
- Approved 2016/2017 Fire Relief Schedules I and II for the Fire Relief Association.
- Accepted north sanitary sewer interceptor extension report.
- Authorized Submittal of 2017 Grant Application to the Scott County Community Development Agency for economic development related projects.

City Council Contacts:

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Union Square Donation Acknowledged



Utilizing the generous donations from the Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Cambria, the Public Works Department recently upgraded the restroom facility at Union Square. On September 29th, Arthur Hartman (second from left), Vice President of Cambria Business Partner Services, and Charlie Vig (far right) CFO of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux, toured Union Square. Also pictured are Public Works Superintendent Al Fahey, Council Member Cary Coop and Mayor Mike Pingalore.

City of Belle Plaine November Government Calendar

1	Public Safety	4:30 p.m.
3	Coffee with the Mayor	7:00 a.m.
7	Design Committee	5:15 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.
8	General Election	7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
	Public Works	11:00 a.m.
11	Veterans Day	Offices Closed
14	EDA	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
21	Park Board	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.
24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday	Offices Closed



Coffee with the Mayor

When: Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016
Where: Heng's Bakery & Diner
 108 West Main Street
Time: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.