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City of Belle Plaine

May • 2022

Message *from the* Mayor: Changing Times

by Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor

We all know the world we live in is a very dynamic place and things are always changing. Many of these factors impact areas in our lives that we have limited control. From the war in Ukraine to inflation and supply chain issues to name a few, for many, things continue to be stressful. If you are a property owner you would have received your updated valuations on your property from the Scott County Assessor's Office. The majority of properties have seen a huge spike in valuations due to the continued pressure of the housing market and inflated sales prices of the past several years. As you all know, this has an immediate effect on the property taxes that will be due in the coming year and is based purely on this valuation increase. Many people look at this information and then set it aside. It's important to review the statement and compare the valuation to surrounding properties and what your neighbor's property may have sold for recently. Do the numbers make sense? If not, you may want to have a conversation with the County Assessor regarding the valuation number. As property owners, we are within our rights to ask these types of questions and verify the information. This is time sensitive with a limited time period of when you can use this process. I have had discussions with several people around town where there have been some adjustments made to their property valuations, so

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please do not just assume your valuation is static.

As a City, our portion of property taxes collected will also increase based solely on the increased valuation per the County is a market value. With ever increasing operating costs, wages, supplies, and all the other expenses the City pays out, this increase has to be a balanced process while reviewing the next budgeting phase. Increased expenses will require additional funds, so as a City we have to be cognizant of upcoming purchases, projects, hiring of staff, and all other areas of the budget. We also have to be mindful of planning for future projects and purchases so funds are available when needed and additional large tax increases are not needed to fund these projects. Belle Plaine has done a great job in fiscal management for the needs of today, as well as, planning for tomorrow.

Our citizens are very diverse in their wants and needs when it comes to the type of services, programming, and amenities in the City. We are constantly working on this balance to ensure that we are providing the best possible service levels, while maintaining the financial well being of our favorite hometown!

Looking at the forecast it appears that spring will finally be arriving in the coming days. Get out and enjoy a ballgame, track meet or take advantage of our wonderful parks that are again coming to life.

Where Can Signs Be Placed?

The short answer is "it depends". Where signs can and can't be placed mostly depends on the zoning district in which your property is located. For example, properties in Downtown have significant design and placement standards but several types of signs are allowed. In areas along Highway 169 even more types and sizes of signs are allowed. In residential areas very little signage is allowed.



In general, signs are subject to removal if they are placed in boulevards, on trees, street signs, on utility poles, in the Downtown Plaza, or on someone else's property. More information is available at belleplainemn.com, search for City Code Section 1107.20, Signs. Sign permit applications are available on the permit page of the website.

CITY OF BELLE PLAINE PUBLIC NOTICE FILING NOTICE

The following City offices will be voted on at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. One (1) Mayor for the term of two years; two (2) Councilmembers for the term of four years. Filing period for these offices begins at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 17, 2022 and ends at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2022. Filing offices will be closed Monday, May 30, 2022 in observance of Memorial Day. The amount of candidate filings received will determine whether the City of Belle Plaine will hold a municipal primary election on August 9, 2022.

The place of filing for City offices is Belle Plaine City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN 56011. The filing fee is \$2.00. Notice is hereby given pursuant to Minnesota Statute 205.13; Subd 2.

City Council Highlights & City Notices

April 4, 2022

- Approved Regular Session Minutes of March 21, 2022.
- Approved Call for Public Hearing for the Annual Renewal of Liquor Licenses.
- Accepted Resignation of Planning and Zoning Commissioner Ryan Herrmann.
- Approved Resolution 22-044 Appointing Brian Romness as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Authorizing Staff to Advertise to Seek an Alternate Planning and Zoning Member.
- Approved Authorize and Direct Release of Developers Agreement Chatfield On The Green First Addition.
- Approved Three Temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses for the Belle Plaine Baseball Association at Tiger Park.
- Approved Resolution 22-045 Re-Appointing Seasonal Life Guards, Water Safety Instructors and Aquatic Staff for the 2022 Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Season.
- Approved Resolution 22-046 Authorizing Mayor to Execute Environmental and Request For Fund Release Documents Small Cities Development Program Grant.

April 18, 2022

- Approved Regular Session Minutes of April 4, 2022.
- Approved Council Retreat Minutes of April 14, 2022.
- Approved Resolution 22-047 Appoint New and Rehire Aquatic Center Staff.
- Approved Resolution 22-048 Authorizing Mayor and City Administrator to Execute the Master Partnership Contract with MNDOT.
- Approved Resolution 22-050 Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for the 2022 Improvement Project.
- Approved Resolution 22-051 Awarding Bid for the 2022 Pavement Maintenance Project to Pearson Bros., Inc. for \$83,676.80.
- Approved Accepting the 2021 Audit Report and Management Letter.

City Council Contacts:

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Renee LeMieux	952-356-4126
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Patricia Krings	952-836-4302
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Belle Plaine City Hall.....	952-873-5553
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www.belleplainemn.com



Nearly All Pools Require A Building Permit

Swimming pool season is fast approaching. Did you know nearly all above and below ground pools require a building permit? This is an International Residential Code/ International Building Code requirement which is enforced locally. Any pool with a height greater than 24 inches **or** a capacity of more than 5,000 gallons requires a building permit. This includes prefabricated pools you buy off the shelf and place on the ground.

In addition, pools must meet certain local requirements including:

- Must be located away from utility lines, at least ten feet from lot lines, and at least six feet from a house.
- Must not be located in front of house.
- Appropriately covered or fenced for safety purposes.

Complete information is available at belleplainemn.com, just search for City Code Section 1107.05.

Pool Meter Check-out

Backyard Pool?

Call before you fill. 952-873-5553
Before filling your pool this summer, check out temporary pool water meter to get a discount on your water usage.



Please note: Pool must be at least 24" in depth and over 5,000 gallons in size to receive discount.

Aquatics Facility

Opens June 4

Kick-Off Party

Fri., June 3

5 - 7 p.m. | FREE



Visit www.belleplainemn.com to register for Resident Discount Card or to purchase season passes.



Emergency Medical

Services Week

May 23-27, 2022

May 2022 Government Calendar

- 2 Design Committee Canceled
- City Council 6:30 p.m.
- Work Session 6:45 p.m.
- 9 Public Safety..... 7:30 a.m.
- EDA..... 5:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission..... 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Public Works..... 9:00 a.m.
- 16 Parks Commission..... Canceled
- City Council 6:30 p.m.
- Work Session 6:45 p.m.
- 30 Memorial Day Observed..... City Offices Closed