

The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

ECRWSS
Postal Patron
Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 9
City of Belle Plaine

January • 2019

Message from the Mayor : Telling Our Story

Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor

Over the past several years since becoming Mayor, I have become involved in numerous meetings, conferences, and committees that include elected officials and staff from all over the State of Minnesota. As I continue to meet with these people, as well as many others that I am in contact with, I always take the opportunity to talk about our favorite town of Belle Plaine. It amazes me that some people are clueless when it comes to small details like where we are even located within the State. As I tell the story and educate them on all of the wonderful things that the city has to offer and all that is going on, in most cases it moves them to tell me about where they live. Over the course of my professional career, and in many instances as a business, it is in the process of marketing or selling a product or service that it all comes back to a common idea. That idea is to tell your story. In the case of telling the story of a business, it is much easier because you are dealing with a specific product.

When trying to tell the story about a city, which includes history, current events, projects, schools, and civic events, the story possibilities are endless. However, with that said, it can only benefit all of us to tell Belle Plaine's story to attract attention, drive people to visit, potentially open a business, build a house, bring a service - so many reasons.

As citizens, we always have an opportunity to tell the story of our town as we travel or visit with co-workers. Recently, I visited with a resident that relocated to Belle Plaine 15-years ago from a similar size town in Iowa. She told me that her family had originally moved to a larger suburb in the Twin Cities but as they started having children wanted to give them a hometown to call their own as they grew up. This was a very powerful story to hear, but it only got better as she told me

*Our story
continues to grow
every year!*

that another family member decided to move to Belle Plaine based on the experience and quality of life that she talked about. So, from one small town in Iowa, we are now happy to have two families with children in our schools and parents involved in numerous things throughout our community. This is just one story and there are literally hundreds more that we could share.

Even small things can create great interest and drive people to want to become more involved in our community. I am sure many of you have recently read about our 50-year Christmas tradition of the beloved skunk house that is displayed by the Dr. Roger Hallgren family. This tradition has brought generations of both local and out of town kids annually to Belle Plaine to see it. What a great story. As a kid, I was always excited to take the trip to the far edge of town to see the skunks. I am fortunate now to live two houses down and get to experience them the entire Christmas season!

What else will continue to help grow our story? There are several projects this year that will certainly add to the interest and increase traffic to our city. The cricket fields, the aquatic park that is under way, and our community festivals and events all add chapters to our story.

So as a resident, I would ask that you take every opportunity to tell our story. Be positive, be proud, be informed, be a true Tiger! You will be amazed at the power our story has and the interest it will drive. You may be the connection between the story and a new business or resident coming to town!

Get out and enjoy the winter scenery in our community. Tell the story and enjoy our favorite Home Town!

Water and Sewer Rates Increase for 2019

New water and sewer rates go into effect January 2019 and will be reflected on the January utility bill which is due on February 21st. 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 2017 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.)

There is a 2% increase in the sewer and water base rate; and a 4% increase in usage rates as recommended in the

The City has many payment options available

- Pay on-line with your credit card or checking account at www.belleplainemn.com. Click on Online Payments, then Utility Bills.
- Drop off the payment at City Hall or in the after-hours drop box to the right of the front door.
- The easiest and most efficient way to make a payment is to sign up for ACH, where the payment comes out automatically from your checking account on the due date. You will continue to receive a statement each month.

Continued Page 2

2019 Water and Sewer Usage Rates

Water and Sewer Rates Continued

2017 utility rate study.

The monthly residential base rate (not including usage charges) for 2019 is \$33.26; a \$0.64 monthly increase from 2018. The 2019 base rate (residential 3/4-inch meter) includes base fees of water \$10.36; sewer of \$16.41, state surcharge of \$0.53, street light fee of \$2.40, and storm sewer fee of \$3.56. The senior monthly base rate for 2019 is \$19.31. The tables show the new 2019 rates and the 2018 rates for your comparison. Irrigation monthly base rate for 2019 is \$3.74, and the per thousand-gallon usage fee is \$10.80 for 2019 compared to \$10.38 in 2018.

Residential Water Usage Rates		
All Usage Rates are Per 1,000 Gallons		
	2018	2019
Up to 2,000	\$3.79	\$3.94
2,001 - 4,000	\$5.70	\$5.93
4,001 & above	\$10.38	\$10.80

Commercial Water Usage Rates		
All Usage Rates are Per 1,000 Gallons		
	2018	2019
Up to 4,000	\$3.84	\$3.99
4,001 - 24,000	\$5.76	\$5.99
24,001 & above	\$10.51	\$10.93

Residential Sewer Usage Rates		
Based on Water Usage		
	2018	2019
Up to 2,000	\$7.52	\$7.82
2,001 - 4,000	\$8.83	\$9.18
4,001 & above	\$17.83	\$18.54

Commercial Sewer Usage Rates		
Based on Water Usage		
	2018	2019
Up to 4,000	\$7.62	\$7.93
4,001 - 24,000	\$8.92	\$9.28
24,001 & above	\$18.16	\$18.89



Monthly Water Base			Monthly Sewer Base Rate		
*Larger meter size base rates available at www.belleplainemn.com .					
	2018	2019		2018	2019
Up to 1" Meter Size*	\$10.16	\$10.36	Up to 1" Meter Size*	\$16.09	\$16.41
Low Income Senior	\$4.83	\$4.93	Low Income Senior	\$7.73	\$7.89

Thank You!

Our firefighters perform a much needed service for our community and we are grateful for their dedication. At the December 3, 2018 City Council meeting, Mayor Chris Meyer presented Belle Plaine Fire Fighters Lenny Traxler and Jim Salden with plaques in recognition of their retirement and 15 years of service. Firefighters Doug LeMeiux, Travis Otto, Lenny Traxler, Jim Salden, and Rob Selly also received pins for 15 years of service at the Fire Relief meeting on December 6. We thank them for their dedication to the residents of the Belle Plaine area.



Pictured from left to right: Lenny Traxler, Mayor Chris Meyer, and Jim Salden.

Find information about how you can be code compliant in the **GUIDE TO CODE COMPLIANCE**. Brochures are available at City Hall, or at www.belleplainemn.com. For more information, contact the Community Development Department.

Snow Removal Regulations
Parking will not be permitted on residential streets when snow has accumulated to a depth of one-half (1/2) inch or more. Downtown parking will be posted as NO PARKING during a snow emergency.

City Council Contacts:

Mayor, Christopher G. Meyer <i>cmeyer@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	612-756-0662
Paul Chard <i>pchard@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	612-685-8873
Cary Coop <i>ccoop@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	612-964-1008
Renee LeMieux <i>rlmieux@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-356-4126
Ben Stier <i>bstier@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-292-4683
Belle Plaine City Hall <i>cityhall@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-873-5553

January 2019 Government Calendar

1	New Year Observed City Offices Closed
7	Design Committee 5:15 p.m. City Council 6:30 p.m.
8	Public Safety 4:30 p.m.
10	Public Works 9:00 a.m.
14	EDA 5:00 p.m. Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.
21	Martin Luther King Day City Offices Closed
22	Park Board 5:00 p.m. City Council 6:30 p.m.

218 N. Meridian St. • P. O. Box 129 • Belle Plaine, MN 56011
 Phone: 952-873-5553 • Fax: 952-873-5509 • www.belleplainemn.com