

The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

March • 2021

Message from the Mayor: A City on the Move

Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor

As a Mayor and Council, we review potential projects, equipment purchases, and other services offered to us and by us on a regular basis. As elected officials representing the residents of Belle Plaine, we are continually looking at the return on these investments. For some projects, this is an easy decision such as purchasing or replacing needed equipment for our emergency responders or for public works. As a City, we manage our budget and plan for major capital purchases years in advance.

I have mentioned in previous articles that our finance department prepares the budget annually and plans for these types of purchases. Money is set aside for major equipment, infrastructure, parks, and other ongoing operational needs. As a Council, we carefully review requests as they are brought to us from various committees ensuring that the item is budgeted for and there is still a need prior to purchasing the item. In addition to the necessary purchases, there are purchases that are a little more difficult to understand that falls outside of our day-to-day operations.

Many times these purchases include computer software, which is not something that we can see or touch, so we make our decisions based on information presented to us. We've recently approved software upgrades for the Police Department to improve the investigation, reporting, and detection capabilities.

We've also recently approved a purchase for the Public Works Department that will change the way they locate underground utilities and improve the placement of new utilities in the ground. In addition, the software will help create and maintain a more in-depth mapping system and store information digitally. The Fire Department now uses more digital data and utilizes mapping systems to aid in dispatching to incident locations and for informational and record keeping purposes. The software provides for easier, faster, and safer response times.

You may have noticed that your water and sewer bill

looks differently than previous bills. The City invested in much-needed upgrades to our accounting and utility billing software, which will provide for more efficient and improved record keeping.

One of the challenges to incorporating new software is to ensure that all of the computer systems department wide communicate with each other. One example is that the utility billing data has to flow into the accounting system. Another example is that the budget information from each department, which can change, has to integrate with many other systems.

If you use a computer in your home, place of employment or business, you understand how quickly software and equipment changes. These types of purchases are vetted thoroughly to ensure that we purchase upgrades and systems so that the City realizes the maximum number of years of use from the investments.

Another consideration that we have to take into account is the required reporting to other bodies of government. The City reports to the Met Council, the Federal government, State of Minnesota, Scott County, and vendors for services like insurance, gas, electricity, and emergency service agencies. Many of these agencies require a financial investment by the City to maintain the required reporting tools for compliance and maintain relationships.

We often joke that now days buying a dump truck for Public Works or a buying a new police car are the easier, straight forward purchases that we all can understand. When purchasing technology services, equipment, and software, we rely on staff to provide accurate information to educate us so that we make the best long-term decisions for the City.

The weather is changing and we are watching the snow quickly melt. Soon our parks will come alive again and the spring and summer activities will be underway. Please get out, enjoy our beautiful City and experience your favorite Home Town!

"Think Spring and Be Safe!"

Think Spring
and
Be Safe!

Snow Removal Regulations

400.03 (R) All snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks within 24 hours after snow has ceased to fall. Failure to comply may result in a citation.

501.09 Parking will not be permitted on residential streets during a snow emergency, when snow has accumulated to a depth of one-half (½) inch or more. Downtown parking will be posted as NO PARKING during a snow emergency.

Don't let your vehicle get towed, sign up for Nixle, a free program which sends an e-mail and text message to your cell phone regarding snow emergencies and / or community information. Sign up for free at www.nixle.com.

Frequently Asked Questions - Public Works

My yard has been painted with different colors. What work is being done?

Utility companies have the right to work in the street right-of-way and the drainage and utility easement, to install or maintain their lines. Before work begins, the respective company is required to call 'Gopher State One Call'. They then notify other utilities of the work to be performed. The other utility companies will then mark their existing lines in the area with paint.

- Gas Lines = Yellow
- Telephone & Cable TV = Orange
- Electric = Red
- Water = Blue
- Wastewater = Green
- Construction Limits = White

If you would like to find out what work is being performed, you can contact the respective utility companies. You can also call the Public Works Department at 952-873-6742.

If you notice any color other than what is listed above painted on your property, please call the Public Works Department

When is the water meter read?

Your meter is read once a month, usually around the 26th.

Who is responsible for maintaining the wastewater line to my home?

The homeowner is responsible for any service line blockage or repairs between the home and the City wastewater main, including the connection at the wastewater main.

Problems with the sanitary wastewater system (the system conveying wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries) should be reported to the City Public Works Department.

Property owners experiencing sewer issues should call the Public Works Department if the public system is operating. If the problem is only with one fixture (sink or toilet), it is likely that the problem is in the private system and you should contact a plumber.

Please call Public Works for waste water questions and call Utility Billing for water and sewer bill questions.

Public Works: 952-873-6742

Utility Billing: 952-873-4644

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
Patricia Krings <i>pkrings@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-836-4302
Belle Plaine City Hall <i>cityhall@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-873-5553

Mayor Issued Proclamations for the VFW and St. Patrick's Day at the March 1 City Council Meeting.



Mary Pat Derner and Shannon Meyer received the St. Patrick's Day Proclamation from Mayor Chris Meyer. March 13, 2021 has been declared St. Patrick's Day for the town of Belle Plaine.



Mayor Meyer presented Tricia Burmeister and Larry Ruehling the proclamation recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Belle Plaine VFW Post 6202,

March 2021 Government Calendar

1	Design Committee	5:15 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.
8	EDA.....	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission.....	6:30 p.m.
9	Public Safety.....	7:30 a.m.
11	Public Works.....	9:00 a.m.
15	Parks Commission.....	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.