

# CITY OF WINDOM

## NEWS & NOTES

By: Steve Nasby, City Administrator



50th Edition

April 14, 2020

### Department Head Meeting Highlights

On April 14th the topics discussed included the following:

- Coronavirus Information and Discussion
  - City operations update. Plan to continue status quo through May 4<sup>th</sup> to comply with the Governor's Executive Order 20-20 of Stay at Home. Should the Stay at Home Order be extended the Mayor and City Administrator have been given the authority by the City Council to extend public facility closures as needed.
  - State of Minnesota request for utilities to suspend late fees and service terminations was approved by the City Council through May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Keeping workplaces clean and employees safe. Additional attention to hand washing, sanitizing and social distancing key. More information on safe work practices, new federal laws on employee leaves and CDC guidance will be forwarded to employees.
  - Electronic meetings can be arranged via Zoom (or some other platform) or by conference call. Important to be in compliance with Minnesota Open Meeting Law.
  - Discuss impacts of the Coronavirus on programming (such as Pool and Recreation programs) and discuss these with Boards\Commissions.

### Activities & Project Updates

- Streets – Crews plowed snow on Monday, April 13. Currently working on tree trimming and equipment maintenance.
- Parks – City Council decision to keep Parks open, but close off playgrounds as coronavirus can live on surfaces.
- Police – Officers have kept busy and their website update is done.
- Electric – Staff is working on a lighting projects at City buildings and will do the Electric buildings next. When weather improves the boring work will start. Training and work underway for new GIS continuing.
- Library – People are returning books and then they are sanitized. Coordination of e-lending and numerous questions from the public.
- Liquor – Very busy. Hours are 11 am to 7 pm Monday-Saturday and 11 am to 4 pm Sunday. Glass shields are installed. Thanked the Community Center staff for help cleaning and sanitizing.

- Telecom – System very busy, but all working well. Sunday had 2.5 GB upload and 11.7 TB downloaded as everyone was watching video. 2020A Refinancing Bonds were approved by the Telecom Commission.
- Water\Wastewater – Water main break on Des Moines Drive. Hydrant flushing to start next week. Work continues at the WWTP.
- Economic Development Authority – 40 acres in NWIP being sold to Scott Veenker for use with Windom Wash business. Purchase option with Mews approved for 20 acres along County Road 15. DEED grant for Cemstone redevelopment was not approved, but staff still working with them on other options.
- Building\Zoning – New home going up on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. City Council approved moving ahead with getting a court order for two properties on Miller Avenue related to nuisances. Dilapidated home on River Road by Perkins Creek bridge will be demolished and a new home built.
- Arena – Transition from ice to horse show season is ahead of schedule and now working on studio rink. Two May horse shows cancelled and unsure if others will be held as scheduled due to coronavirus.
- Pool – Wait and see mode, but will start scheduling some maintenance work.
- Recreation – Programming pushed from the first week of June until the second week of June. Hopeful to hold summer programs.
- Community Center – Dance floor refinishing being done along with a list of other maintenance items.
- City Office/Finance – Wellness webinar on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for employees. Getting a price quote for glass shields.

#### **CITY COUNCIL – April 21, 2020**

The upcoming City Council meeting will include these highlights:

1. South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Road Maintenance Agreement
2. Streets\Parks – Seasonal Hires
3. City-wide Clean Up Postponed Due to Coronavirus – DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED
4. Coronavirus Updates\Information – Stay at Home Order

#### **KUDOS**

Last, but not least, I want to thank all of you for all your efforts on behalf of the City. To help recognize City staff that go above and beyond, I am asking that **if you have a co-worker you want to thank or recognize for their work please send me an email** and I will include their name in the News & Notes Kudos.

- Recognition to **Jeff Dahna, Windomnet GM** and the **Telecom Staff** for their efforts to get the Windom School District students and faculty connected and helping with the distance learning efforts.
- Thank you to **Spencer Winzenried and Lois Eigenberg** from the Community Center for helping out at the Liquor Store.
- **Preston Rossow and Levi Bunting** for all their work in converting City buildings to LED lighting.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and dedication to the citizens of our community.