

CITY OF WINDOM

NEWS & NOTES

By: Steve Nasby, City Administrator



52nd Edition

May 12, 2020

Department Head Meeting Highlights

- Coronavirus Information and Discussion
 - Continue status quo through May 19th. Possible extension of Stay at Home Order.
 - City Hall, Library, Arena & Community Center plans for “soft opening” to be done for City Council consideration on May 19th if Stay at Home Order expires.
 - Hand sanitizer is available to departments. Still awaiting delivery of KN95 masks from MMUA.
- 2021 City Budget Planning – Funding from Local Government Aid through the State may be impacted negatively due to coronavirus and impending State budget deficit. Also, closures and job loss for local residents and businesses from the coronavirus will likely require property tax levies to be held at current levels or reduced.
- Tentative Date for City Council Strategic Planning – The City Council has set July 14th as the tentative date for their strategic planning discussions to begin.
- 2020 Street Project Update – Work on 14th Street and Rolling Green area has started with pavement removal this week. Underground work could start on 14th Street and Highland by the end of the week. Project information is on the City website (weekly newsletters) on the Street Department page.

Activities & Project Updates

- Streets – Tree trimming is being done and will continue. Work on alleys is underway with new material being placed and grading. Crews out mowing and doing other work.
- Parks – Mowing. Park & Rec meeting this week and State action will determine upcoming actions for parks and ball fields.
- Police – High school graduation parade coordination for May 22nd at 5:00 pm. Eagle Achievement project of an obstacle course for the K9 is being done and likely to be placed at the airport property.
- Electric – Boring work on County Road 13 & 17 along with fiber. Work to move lines underground on 16th Street from the highway to Windom Recreation Area is starting. Street project will keep staff busy.
- Library – Started curbside service this week and it is slow, but working well. Staff finishing some painting and other internal projects.
- Liquor – Continue to stay busy and expansion of hours starting this week.

- Telecom – County Road 13 & 17 work with Electric Dept. Service to new school being placed. Meta-switch migration and long distance trunk work done. Switch software update upcoming. Work with moving some peds for 2020 Street project.
- Water\Wastewater – Work for 2020 Street project and coordination with contractor for temp water. New pre-treatment building is up and running. Old building to be demolished. Work on clarifiers underway.
- Economic Development Authority – Housing is a pressing need. Prime Pork still hiring and recently announced they are looking for 300 new employees. Working with some property owners and developers on ideas to renovate existing spaces for housing. The Shopko building is now officially listed for sale. MN DOT would approve a new access by Dollar General for the undeveloped property but is requesting a \$247,000 turn lane to be installed at local expense. The EDA Board is requesting MN DOT to reconsider.
- Building\Zoning – Planning and Zoning meeting on a variance for Oddsons to allow construction with a smaller set back on 16th Street. Commission will look at some land use codes for possible revisions. Site plan meeting held with Kwik Trip last week and looks like 2021 construction.
- Arena – Horse shows cancelled for May (one yet to be decided). Fredin is still working on the racquet ball area remodeling. Arena staff doing renovations of the old locker room showers.
- Pool – Awaiting State action, Park & Recreation Commission input and information from the LMC.
- Recreation – Awaiting State action, Park & Recreation Commission input and information from the LMC.
- Community Center – Looking forward on re-opening. Staff working on maintenance items at the Community Center and helping out Street Department with mowing.
- City Office/Finance – Completing 2019 audit work. Probably will not hire a 2020 summer intern. City Hall staff available to help out other Departments.

CITY COUNCIL – May 19, 2020

The upcoming City Council meeting will include these highlights:

1. Planning & Zoning Commission – Variance Recommendation 50 16th Street
2. Windom Area High School – Parade Route for 2020 Graduation
3. Part-time Liquor Store Clerk - hire
4. Coronavirus Updates\Information
 - a. Resolution supporting re-opening small businesses
 - b. Soft opening plans – City facilities
 - c. Review Status of Executive Orders
5. Contractor Change Order – Empire Construction (Extension of days for tennis courts)

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.

- Thank you from City Hall Office staff to **Denise Nichols** for her work on the City-wide Clean up.
- **Spencer Winzenried and John Nyborg**, thank you for re-painting & repairing the entryway at City Hall.

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