

CITY OF WINDOM

NEWS & NOTES

By: Steve Nasby, City Administrator



54th Edition

June 9, 2020

Department Head Meeting Highlights

- Coronavirus Information and Discussion
 - Gov. Walz's Executive Order 20-74 requires cities to adopt a preparedness plan by June 29th.
 - City Hall, Library, Arena & Community Center "soft opening" went well. Expansions of allowed activities will enable some events at the Community Center, youth recreational programs and the swimming pool to open. The pool is targeting a June 26-29 start date.
- 2020 Street Project Update – Overlays of 16th Street and South 6th Street are done. Concrete crew coming to start on 14th Street and underground work continues on Highland Road. Project information is on the City website (weekly newsletters) on the Street Department page.
- Review of City safety policy and IBEW language, specifically as it relates to safety shoes and clothing. Our goal is to work safely so everyone can go home after each work shift.
- Strategic Planning & Budget Updates – The City Council has tentatively planned on July 14th to start strategic planning discussions. Budgeting process starting for the upcoming 2021 year. Departments are encouraged to think of cost savings, determine priorities and review revenues. The State updated its budget forecast showing a \$2.4 billion deficit, but their budget forecast will likely be updated again in August as income tax payments had been extended to July 15th. The State does have a healthy budget reserve so the impacts to legislatively approved expenditures should be somewhat mitigated through use of reserve funds.

Activities & Project Updates

- Streets – Crew busy with street project work, park prep & upkeep and tree removal\trimming. Garbage and an RV sewer dump were found at the Compost Site. If the use of the Compost Site cannot be done within guidelines other options will be discussed.
- Parks – Mowing. The public is encouraged to use the parks, beach, ball fields and sand volleyball pits.
- Police – Busy preparing for rumored protests and options for action. National focus on Police departments across the country.
- Electric – Crews finishing up at the new Avera Clinic and hospital loop. Doing work on 16th Street by Oddson Underground.
- Library – Still doing curbside service, but open to the public. Virtual summer reading program starting via Facebook live. Doing a family bingo activity over the summer.

- Liquor – Liquor Committee meeting. Discussion of RFP for feasibility study and preliminary options.
- Telecom – Work on the Street project with peds and locates. June 4th the internet feed went down so traffic re-routed through Omaha. Outage took out the Twin Cities TV channels for a couple days. Working on Federal EDA grant for Jeffers Fiber expansion.
- Water\Wastewater – Keeping up on construction activities for the WWTP and Street project. Basins 3 & 4 going on-line soon. Lead and copper testing underway. Demonstrations scheduled for new jetter truck.
- Economic Development Authority – Working on Federal EDA grant for housing. Focus is on housing due to the hiring plans at Prime Pork. Possible remodel of units in downtown, BARC and Jeffers school building.
- Building\Zoning – Conditional use permit discussion for the Jack Kelly industrial property. Storage of cars for Windom Towing. Revisions of City Code on moving permits and a couple other minor language changes.
- Arena – Arena parking lot being dewatered. Cottonwood Co Fair has cancelled and only two horse shows still on the schedule so will not be placing dirt\clay on the rink this year.
- Pool – State allowing opening up to 50% capacity or 250 people. Pool capacity is 320 so up to 160 people can be at the pool. Working on painting and other items. Plan to target June 26-29 for opening and have all sessions of swimming lessons.
- Recreation – Recreation programs will start June 15th within guidelines.
- Community Center – Calls are in-coming on re-scheduling events.
- City Office/Finance – Robin Shaw retiring January 2021. Audit likely done in July. Hospital will do free health screenings for the City employees on August 5th.

CITY COUNCIL – June 16, 2020

The upcoming City Council meeting will include these highlights:

1. Resolution accepting donations for the Windom PD
2. Planning Commission – Conditional Use Permit and Code Revisions
3. Park & Recreation Commission recommendations
4. Coronavirus Preparedness Plan
5. Contractor Payment – M & R Paving for 2020 Street Project

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 to **Tim Hogan** for all his work getting the youth recreational programming started and efforts to open the Windom Pool.
- Recognition for Excellence of Service for all of our **Windom Police Officers**.

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