

CITY OF WINDOM
NEWS & NOTES
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143RD EDITION

MAY 14, 2024

Department Head Meeting Highlights –

- Website Training & Future Website Conversion
- MN DOT Open House – Highway 60 – DATE CHANGE – June 4th @ Windom Community Center
- Board and Commission Appointments – Update
- City Council Agenda Review
- Department Updates

Activities & Project Updates

- **Arena** – Clay placed in rink. When clay is dry it will be leveled and sand added.
- **Community Center** – Wedding this weekend then booked with a number of graduation parties.
- **Telecom** – Jeff back in the office 6-8 hours\day. Issues with NOC generator, but got repaired. Riverview Hi-rise switched providers and new provider is causing issues with removal of wiring, customer confusion, etc. Will be working on adding homes along County Road 13 & 15. Medallion hunt for Riverfest still planned.
- **Liquor** – May 21st is Chamber Coffee at the Liquor Store and a June 3-4 Grand Re-opening is scheduled. Staff continuing to organize. Store front repair work underway then new lighted lettering can be put up.
- **Water\Wastewater** – Hydrant flushing continuing. Two hydrants need repair. South Windom water connection discussion needed for potential new customer. RRRWS water purchase agreement is done.
- **Police** – Interviewed for 10th Officer. Background work on two applicants nearing completion.

Economic Development Authority – One residential tax abatement moving ahead and several other inquiries. The EDA has approved Commercial Rehab Program and Facade Improvement Program loans on 1020 4th Ave (former dentist office). Tyann Hall-Marcy is relocating her insurance services there and anticipates her total renovation costs to be \$75k-\$100k. Latino Universal has been working on moving locations. They've been hoping to time a grand reopening with Premium Iowa Pork's reopening (under the anticipation of that being end of 2nd quarter this year). EDA has let them know that we have loan programs available that include forgivable loans and about grant opportunities that could help. The EDA has been sharing information about the Promise Act with our local small businesses. It's a grant opportunity of \$10k-\$50k for businesses with revenues under \$750,000 and SWIF is administering the program for DEED locally. SWIF hasn't opened it up yet but is expected to do this month.

- **Library** – Annual Friends of the Library meeting upcoming and Library Board meeting. School has 4th graders touring the library. Doing a Spanish Storytime twice a month. May 28th is a visiting author event. Staff preparing for the summer Reading program.

- **Electric** – New wood chipper was delivered and the new 1-ton Dodge pickup arrived. Generator delivery completed and went smoothly. Crew working on power extension to the new County shop site. Will move small scoreboard at the Windom Rec Area onto Qwest Field. Working with a data mining company to locate here.
- **Building\Zoning** – Have five new building permits issued and several zoning permits for sheds. Windom Landing has a temporary conditional occupancy for Building F. Working on code updates and a new Air B&B code.
- **Streets & Parks** – Clay hauled to the Arena. Crew spraying weeds at the parks, continuing to sweep and do mastic street repairs. 37 new trees were planted and 10 trees treated for Emerald Ash Bore.
- **City Hall Office** – Finishing up 2023 stuff for the audit and Capital Assets about completed. Summer office hours going well so far. Cheryl will be coming in 1-2 times a week. Denise Nichols announced her retirement for mid July.
- **Recreation** – Summer hiring started and working on rolling out programs\scheduling. Windom Booster Club wants to do some park improvements and donations which are greatly appreciated.
- **Pool** – Water department is working on a pump seal replacement and cleaning out the drains. The pool basin has been acid washed and is showing a number of heaves and cracks. The cracks have been patched and the pool basin is being painted.
- **Ambulance** – One new EMT started and one more will join when testing is complete. A couple minor rig repairs completed.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING (6:30 PM) – May 21, 2024

The upcoming City Council meeting will include these items:

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes, Licenses and Regular Bills
3. Public Hearing – Residential Tax Abatement
4. Personnel
 - a. Seasonal Employees
5. Contractor Payments & Change Orders
6. New Business
7. Old Business
8. Council Comments

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THE
CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY**