Fall Issue

Issue 60 **September 2019**

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New Landscaping Ordinance

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on July 9th and July 15 to discuss an ordinance change because of a recent increase in residents failing to get the proper permits and just installing decks, patios, and other landscaping items that are noncompliant with zoning regulations. The commission reviewed the ordinance and recommended its approval by Council.

Council voted on the proposed ordinance at the August 12th and September 9th council meetings, to expand regulations and set requirements for all landscaping activities. Ordinance 174 went into affect after publication on September 18th. (*This is a reduced version.)*

"Section 165.10, Sub-Section 13, of Wahpeton Zoning Code entitled, "General Landscaping and Excavation" as follows:

This section is adopted to guide, regulate and establish requirements for landscaping activities in the City of Wahpeton which are not subject to the requirements of Chapter 165.10, Section 12, "Landscaping and Excavation of Lakeshore Property above the Ordinary High Water Mark".

This section is adopted to protect groundcover, to protect natural drainage; to promote and provide for improved storm water drainage, to protect existing utilities and improvements; and to limit adverse effects of landscaping activities on adjoining and nearby landowners and on city property.

"Section 13. GENERAL LANDSCAPING AND EXCAVATION.

Unlawful Act. It is unlawful for any person to conduct landscaping activities without first making application for and receiving a landscaping permit from the City of Wahpeton.

Procedure for Obtaining a Landscaping Permit. A request for a landscaping permit shall be submitted by a written application, including a diagram or site plan of the parcel upon which landscaping activities are to take place, together with a diagram or illustration and a description of all contemplated landscape activities. The application shall set out the necessity for the proposed landscaping, as well as corrective measures proposed and materials to be used. Landscaping Permit Applications shall be reviewed by the City Zoning Officer who shall either issue, modify or deny a permit. Decisions of the Zoning Officer on a landscaping permit may be appealed to the Wahpeton Board of Adjustment.

Storm Water Drainage. No landscaping activity shall divert the flow of storm water from its natural course and no landscaping activity shall have the effect of increasing the volume or rate of flow of storm water over adjoining public or private property.

Silt Fence Screening Required. Silt mat or silt fence screening material must be used on any lot, regardless of the lot grade or elevation on which there is to be any excavating, earthmoving, or disturbance of the lot grade or ground surface cover due to remodeling, rebuilding or new construction, which could cause silt or dirt runoff. It is to be installed with 3 ft. silt screening installed on posts set no more than 4 ft. apart, with the screening material installed 1 ft. below ground level and 2 ft. above ground level. Silt fence screening is to be constructed around any street storm sewer or drain intakes which could also carry dirt or silt into the lake and be affected by the project. All silt fence screening shall be maintained by the applicant for the landscaping permit and/or zoning permit to allow for its effective operation."

New Regulations for Public Dock Permits

The city council passed the 1st reading of Ordinance 176 at the council meeting on September 9th, because of complaints received from permit holders and people on the dock waiting lists. Concerns were presented that some permit holders, while paying the required annual fees, fail to utilize the permit by placing a hoist and water craft; and also that some permittees may be subleasing their permit space to others.

Council decide to change Section 139.05(5) of the Wahpeton Code to read as follows:

Non-transferability: Cancellation.

A dock assignment permit may be cancelled at any time for failure to comply with the regulations of this chapter, or when it is in the best interests of the public as determined by the city. Dock permits are not transferable, except to a spouse or child of a permittee who remains or becomes the owner of the real property in the City of Wahpeton which had been owned by the permittee.

Dock permits or privileges may not be sublet, transferred or granted to a third-party. The owner of a hoist and a watercraft placed pursuant to a permit must be the permittee.

If a permittee fails to use a permit during any boating season by placing a hoist and watercraft, that permittee's permit shall be cancelled and made available to applicants on the waiting list.

Dock privileges granted by the City of Wahpeton are not property rights, do not have any connection to the real property owned by the applicant, except as provided in this subsection, and may not be sold or transferred with the permittee's real property.

The next reading of this ordinance will be 5 p.m. at the October 14th City Council meeting.

As a reminder per Chapter 165.02.98 of the Wahpeton Code of Ordinances, residential homes in Wahpeton cannot be rented or leased for any period less than one month. To do so is a municipal infraction punishable by civil penalties, per Chapter 165.16.

Council Clips:

Minutes are published in the Dickinson County News, posted at City Hall & Kazarelli's Restaurant. Complete copies are available from City Hall or on our Website at:
www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com

July 8, 2019—Regular Session:

- Council approved Resolution 19-14 -To approve plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the Harpen St Water Main Replacement Project.

- A public hearing was held for the Environmental Information Document.

- Council approved pay requests and change orders to complete the West Street Water Main project.

July 29, 2019 - Special Session:

- Council approved Resolution 19-15 Awarding Contract for the Harpen Street Water Main Replacement Project to Hulstein Excavating, Inc., Edgerton, MN for $575,461.00.

August 12, 2019– Regular Session:

- Brad Beck with Beck Engineering discussed 10 Storm Water areas throughout the city, and gave estimates to complete the projects. Council tabled any decisions until they could review the results for the questionnaire and decide if they want to create a storm water utility or how they should pursue the issue.

September 9, 2019—Regular Session:

- Public hearing and approval to enter into a Water Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement for $669,000.00.

- Approval of Ordinances 174 & 175.

- Approved the 2018/19 City Street Financial Report.

City of Wahpeton Office Hours:

Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
City Clerk/Administrator: Bonnie Tielbur
Supt. of Public Works: Doug Hanna
Zoning & Maintenance: Jess Radcliffe
City Council:
2nd Mon. of the month at 5:00 p.m.
Mayor: Phillip Johnson
Council: Brad Jones, Tom Rierson, Harold Prior, Jack Jones and LeAnn Blau
Board of Adjustment:
3rd Tues. of the month at 5:00 p.m.
Chairman: Dick Gauck Members: Jerry Edwards, Doug Westerman, Bob Koerselman & Larry Den Herder.
Planning & Zoning Commission:
2nd Tues. of the month at 6:00 p.m.
Chairman: Donna Harris Members: Fran Parrish, Mark Foss and Ann Meyer

City Hall Information

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Regarding open burning on your property. Burning of trash or anything other than landscape waste is prohibited. Open burning of landscape waste generated on your premises is allowed under the following conditions: Make sure there is no county-wide burn ban on at the time, and make sure you have a water hose connected to a usable water supply and close by when you burn. Fires are not to be left unattended, must not be started before sunrise and must be extinguished by sundown. If a neighbor complains about the smoke, you are required to extinguish the fire.

Beginning October 1st

Garbage pickup will change to Tuesday pickup only. Recycling will remain on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Hiawatha Restoration Project

Don't be alarmed by muddy patches of standing water and unkempt grasses at Hiawatha Beach on Lakeside Avenue. They are the sign of a very important ecosystem returning to the lakeshore. Since most of the park area sits within the ordinary high water mark, it is protected from development. A diverse number of native sedges and wildflowers have returned to the wetland in the last two years when it was too wet to mow. These plants do a phenomenal job of filtering water and stabilizing the lakeshore to keep Okoboji clean and healthy.

Restoration of the wetland is happening thanks to funding support from the City of Wahpeton, MPLOA Inc. and a grant from the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission. Iowa Lakeside Laboratories helped substantially this summer with landscaping and providing their expertise to the project. This summer a thousand native plants from The Prairie Flower in Fostoria were added to the wetland.

The next phase of the project will add a dock extension across the wetland to make access to the community dock easier and new educational signage will be added in the spring. Since this restoration is an ongoing process that will take several years to reach full potential, Lakeside Lab will continue to assist the MPLOA Inc. with the control of invasive species and will assist with adding additional native plants to beautify the area.

Polling Place Change for November 5th Elections

The City Clerk received notice from the county auditors office that all Wahpeton voters are asked to vote at the Milford Community building at 806 N. Avenue in Milford for the 2019 City/School elections on November 5th. Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm.

Anyone Need a Memorial Idea?

The park benches located off Hwy 86, in the green space parking area, have been removed because they are no longer safe to sit on. Before the City spends tax dollars to replace them, the Council wanted to know if there was any interest by someone who would be willing to donate a park bench in honor of a loved one. The area is well used by walkers, runners, bikers and cars. If you are interested in donating a park bench for that area, a bench could be purchased for about $2,000 and would have a plaque on it in memory of your loved one. Examples of the benches are located along the trail or on Papoose Beach. Contact city hall for more information if you are interested.

New Stop Signs

Residents please be aware as you drive in town at the intersections of Winona Street and Dakota Drive. There is a new stop sign on Winona Street. Also, on the corner of Joy Loy Lane and Danny Avenue there is now a stop sign for traffic on Joy Loy Lane. These signs have been put in to slow down traffic and hopefully prevent accidents.

Floodplain Maps

The Iowa DNR and FEMA recently had an informational meeting to allow citizens the opportunity to learn more about the potential change in flood risk and discuss flood insurance options. Maps can be reviewed at www.iowafloodmaps.org. There will be more meetings and no plans to implement any changes until sometime in 2021.