



Fall Issue

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HOTEL/MOTEL TAXES

At the August 20, 2018, Special Session the Council members voted unanimously to put the option to increase Hotel/Motel Tax on the general election ballot November 6th.

The current rate is 5% and they are looking to raise it to 7%, which would bring in approx. \$8,000 to \$9,000 in additional revenue to the city.

Over 90% of other cities that have hotel/motel tax are at 7% already. Putting the item on the ballot at this time could save the city money, because changes at the state level will require cities to hold special elections for such things in the future.

The tax money collected is limited in use by the Iowa Code. Half of the money collected will be used to purchase, upkeep or expand recreational, cultural or entertainment facilities. Wahpeton would use the funds to maintain the trails within the city, update and maintain the city tennis courts and park areas. The other half would be used in the general fund.

Please consider this item when you vote on November 6th.

NEW WET TAX

As many of you know on July 1, 2018 the Iowa Legislature passed a new law, SF 512 which created a Water Service Excise Tax (WET). This tax is reflected on your new utility bill enclosed with this newsletter. Prior to the enactment of this law, the sale of water was subject to a 6% state sales tax. That tax was sent to the State but came back to the cities to help with expenses at the city level. Now, no 6% sales tax is collected on water, but a 6% WET tax is collected. These funds will be collected by the city and sent to the state to be distributed into two funds—the water quality infrastructure fund and the water quality assistance fund—which will provide money to the Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Finance Authority. These funds will be used to improve water quality in Iowa. The remaining portion of WET that is not distributed into either of these funds will be deposited into the State General Fund.

Here in Wahpeton, this will cut our revenue by approximately \$30,000-\$35,000. The council is looking into other ways to recover those funds without the need to increase property taxes.

REMINDER TO CHECK INTO BUILDING PERMITS AND ZONING ORDINANCES BEFORE YOU BEGIN A PROJECT.

Auto-Payment Plan or Debit/Credit Card Payment

The City offers an auto-payment plan for your utility bills. It saves time with fewer checks to write and mail. It saves postage and helps pay your utility bill in a convenient and timely manner. It's easy to sign up for, easy to cancel and you don't have to worry about late charges. You just authorize regularly scheduled payments to be made from your checking or savings account. Payments will be made automatically on the due date of the bill. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please call city hall.

We also accept all major credit card payments for utility bills, deposits, and miscellaneous items. Fees are applied in addition to your transactions.

ORDINANCE CONCERNING RENTAL OF HOMES IN WAHPETON

I would like to remind home owners of a Wahpeton City Ordinance - Chapter 165.02.98, that states, **RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES:** The intent to use and/or the use of a room or group of rooms for the living, sleeping and housekeeping activities for persons on a permanent or semi-permanent basis of an intended tenure of ONE (1) MONTH OR MORE. It is the intent of this definition to restrict rental of residential property. Guest houses shall not be rented independent of the principal dwelling. To do so is a municipal infraction punishable by civil penalties, per Chapter 165.16.

There have been reports some property owners are renting their homes here in Wahpeton for less than the 1 month minimum requirement, and letters from the City Attorney have been sent. We are monitoring the internet also. Please be respectful to your neighbors, they bought their homes to enjoy the peace and quiet of this small community, not have different neighbors and loud parties next door every weekend.

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Garbage—beginning October 1st, garbage pick up will be on Tuesdays only.

Recycling will always be on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Please remember glass now goes in your garbage – we cannot recycle it.

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 9, 2018—Regular Session:

- Several resident expressed concerns with flooding, storm drain issues and erosion.
- Council approved a recycling proposal with Town & Country.

July 16, 2018 - Special Session:

- More drainage and flood issues were discussed.

August 13, 2018— Regular Session:

- Council was approached again about a walking/bike trail on Edgewood Drive for safety reasons. Council approved supporting the trail as presented.
- Council approved setting a hearing on the plans & specs, and receipt of bids for the west street water main project.
- Council approved Ordinance #167—An Ordinance amending Chapters 105 & 106 of the Wahpeton Code to provide for the collection and transportation of recyclable materials and to impose charges therefor.

August 20, 2018—Special Session:

- Council approved the purchase of a 2018 Dodge Ram 2500 SLT pickup for \$25,863.
- Council approved Resolution 18-12—A Resolution Requesting the Dickinson County Auditor to Conduct a Special Election on the Public Measure of Increasing the Local HOTEL/MOTEL Tax in the City of Wahpeton to 7%.

September 10, 2018—Regular Session:

- Council approved Resolution 18-13—City Street Financial Report.
- Council approved Resolution 18-14—To approve the Plans & Specs, Form of Contract and Engineer's estimate of cost for the West Street Water Main Project.

September 24, 2018—Special Session:

- Council decided to give \$7,500 to the MPLOA for projects on Hiawatha & Papoose Beaches pending DNR approval of the projects.
- Council decided to precede with implementing an Alliant Energy Franchise Fee.
- Council filled the vacancy on the Board of Adjustment with the appointment of Larry Den Herder.

City Hall Information

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Web: www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com

REMINDERS:

- **Residents that close their home for the winter** are reminded when shutting off your water to be sure to shut off at the curb and not just in the house.
- **Knox-Box Rapid Entry System** is a **secure** emergency access program developed for property owners and first responders. For fires & emergencies, it allows immediate entry into buildings & property (for EMS & Fire personnel) without forced entry damage or delays.
- **Please do not feed deer & wild turkeys.** Doing so actually does a disservice by congregating them and increasing the chance for disease transmission as well as roadway collision.
- **Burning Leaves**—although there is currently no burning ban in place in Dickinson County or Wahpeton, please be courteous to your neighbors. Avoid burning leaves and letting them smolder all day long. If you know your neighbor may have a respiratory problem move your burn pile away from their home. Use the countywide yard waste area as a safe and environmentally friendly alternative to dispose of your leaves. It is located 1/2 mile east of the intersection of 13th St & Highway 71 (light at the Catholic Church) in Milford, on County Road A-34.
- **Contact City Hall** to report street lights blinking or completely out. Please provide nearest address, cross street and/or pole number.
- **If you have a concern** that needs to come to the Council's attention please contact Bonnie at City Hall to get on the agenda by noon on the Thursday before the Council meeting. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month.
- **Get Registered to Vote** for the upcoming General Election that will be held on November 6th.

Congratulations to Drew & Amy Hage who were married on 8-18-18 in the park in the Enderson subdivision between Joy Loy & Jerdee Lane.

The City Clerk will be out of the office on October 17th—19th attending the Iowa Municipal Financial Officers Association Conference.

Sorry for the inconvenience but it is a great way to stay current with statewide information and events. If you need assistance while I am gone, please leave a message on the answering machine and someone will return your call as soon as possible,

City of Wahpeton Office Hours:

Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

City Clerk/Admin: 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 Councilmen: 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: Colin Jensen Members: Jerry Edwards, Dick Gauck, Doug Westerman & Larry Den Herder.

Planning & Zoning Commission:

2nd Tues. of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman: Donna Harris Members: Fran Parrish, Mark Foss, Ann Meyer and Darren Dotson