



# Winter Issue

Issue 57

December 2018

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### HOTEL/MOTEL TAXES

The option to increase Hotel/Motel Tax passed during the general election on November 6th.

The rate will raise to 7% effective January 1, 2019.

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

### GARBAGE & RECYCLING

**Garbage**—Pick up is now on Tuesdays only. However, during the holidays they will pick up Wednesday, Dec. 26th and Wednesday, Jan. 2nd.

**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.

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.

### ALLIANT ENERGY UPGRADES

Alliant Energy is currently working in the Arrowhead Street, Inwan Ave., and Iowa Street area burying electrical lines to hopefully improve the service in that area.

Also, if you see Alliant energy in other areas of town, they are working on installing new smart meters on homes throughout the city.

They will send a postcard roughly 30 days in advance of when they will be installing in your area.

They will replace electric meters. Depending on the meter type, service may be interrupted briefly during the replacement. For exchanges requiring a service interruption, they will attempt to notify you.

Gas meters will remain in place while they add a smart module. Service will not be interrupted.

If your meter is inside or inaccessible, they will either make an appointment or the installer will attempt to reach someone on site before they do the work.

If the meter is outside and accessible, they will replace or upgrade meters in this situation without an appointment.

These smart meters will measure how much energy is being used and at what times. The meters improve power outage detection and notification. They electronically report the location of outages before you can call it in so crews can be dispatched sooner causing shorter disruption. They will also measure and transmit your usage directly to Alliant, reducing the need for estimated bills.

Please be patient as they make the needed updates.



**REMINDER:** 39th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games  
**January 24-27, 2019**



Mark your calendars!  
Broomball, Flag Football, Softball, Bags Tournament, Chili Cook-off, Chocolate Classic, Polar Plunge, Fireworks, Burning of the greens & much much more.

### Upcoming Budget

As the City Council prepares to deal with ever-challenging tasks of determining the upcoming budget, they thought it was pertinent to supply the residents with more information to help understand what outside forces effect budget and taxation rates.

Factors that will influence the new budget are due to current and anticipated capital improvements. We currently have 2 SRF loans for the water plant and water tower and are anticipating another loan to start replacing water lines throughout the city. Increased utility rates and continued requests from social/recreational agencies in the area for increased funding (to make up for funds lost because of State and Federal cuts) will all need to be considered.

Creating a budget that will adequately fund needed expenditures without raising your tax levy is not an easy task. The process has begun and council will hold a public hearing and certify the new budget by March 15th.

### 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](http://www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com)*

#### Oct. 8, 2018—Regular Session:

- Public Hearing on franchise fee.
- Council approved Ordinance 168—an Ordinance amending the code of ordinances by modifying provisions of Ordinance 135, the City of Wahpeton Electric Franchise Fee.
- Council approved Resolution 18-17-Awarding Contract for the West Street Water Main Improvement Project to ABC Services from Estherville.
- Council approved the 2018 Annual Financial Report.

#### November 12, 2018 - Regular Session:

- Council reviewed results from soil boring on the tennis courts and discussed some options.
- Council approved Ordinance 169– An Ordinance amending the Wahpeton City Code to Provide for the imposition of a Hotel/Motel Tax at the rate of 7%.

#### December 10, 2018– Regular Session:

- Council received updates and request for funding from Discovery House and Lakes Area Hockey Assoc.
- Council approved pay request #1 to ABC for the 180th St project in the amount of \$48,393.95.
- Council received a cost estimate of \$359,715.00 to remove and replace the city tennis courts, however, no decision was made.
- A \$15,239.70 water plant equipment upgrade is needed so equipment at the plant can communicate.
- FEMA is mapping flood plain areas in Wahpeton.

#### December 17, 2018—Special Session:

- Council decided on SRF financing to fund the Harpen Street Water Main Replacement project.

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

### City Hall Information

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Milford, IA 51351

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Phone: (712) 337-3522

Fax: (712) 337-0339

Web: [www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com](http://www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com)

### REMINDERS:

- **Winter is here** and with it comes snow removal. Please be sure to keep your automobiles and other items such as metal post and rocks out of the city right-of-way to facilitate the quick, safe removal of snow. Additionally, residents are reminded that they are responsible for keeping a path cleared in front of mailboxes for mail delivery and if you have a fire hydrant they should be kept clear also.
- **Please do not push the snow** from your driveway or your mailbox into the traveled portion of the road. Not only is this a violation of the City Code (Chapter 135.12) but it creates a hazard to other motorists.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Visit us online** at [www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com](http://www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com) for agendas, minutes, public hearing notices, or zoning ordinance and other up-to-date information. You can sign up to receive email reminders of meeting or when minutes have been posted to the website.

#### Auto-Payment Plan

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.

#### 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