Summer Issue

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A very special "Thank you" to Steve Grubb for again funding the Mosquito Control program thru the summer months so we can all enjoy the outdoors again this summer!!Weekly ground applications will normally be done late evening Thursdays or early Friday mornings now thru mid September, weather permitting.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report for the Wahpeton Water Supply. The report is designed to inform you about the quality of water we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you, the customer, with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

The enclosed report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is surface water and is drawn from West Lake Okoboji in the area of Manhattan Beach. Wahpeton Water Supply is also connected to Milford Municipal Utilities (MMU) via a 6" water main along Hwy. 86 and is only used for emergencies.

Are you looking for firewood?

The DNR is allowing residents to go into the DNR property located across from the tennis courts and cut some of the fallen trees. However, you do need to get a permit first. Applications can be picked up at the DNR office in Gull Point State Park or at City Hall.

Landscaping Ordinance

The city has experienced repeated incidents in which commercial landscapers have accomplished landscaping in the city which is contrary to city ordinances. In some instances, the landscapers have had to stop working or remove what they have put in.

In an effort to prevent this, Council approved Ordinance 172 requiring Landscapers to first make application for and receive a landscaping permit from the City before being allowed to do any work. They will be given information indicating what is allow in Wahpeton and if they don't comply, they could loose their permit status and not be able to do work in Wahpeton.

Ordinance #171-Tobacco & Nicotine Use

You will now see signs posted in the city parks that prohibit tobacco and nicotine use, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, pipes, snus, Electronic Smoking Devices (ESD) and nicotine products that are not Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved for tobacco cessation. The council approved this ordinance at the May 13th meeting in an effort to promote healthier living.

Plans are still progressing with the Harpen Street water main replacement project. If all goes well the start date will be toward the end of August. Bids will be received until July 25th and Council will hold a special meeting on July 29th to award a contract.

Fireworks Still Prohibited

Although the state legislature "legalized" the sale and use of fireworks in Iowa, Wahpeton still has an ordinance in place that prohibits the sale or use of fireworks inside the city limits.

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

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.

The Council would like input from property owners. Please take the time to complete the Storm Water questionnaire on the back of this newsletter. It should only take a few minutes to complete and an envelope has been provided for your convenience.

COUNCIL CLIPS

April 8, 2019—Regular Session:

- Council reviewed estimates and decided to postpone replacement of the tennis courts for 2-3 years.
- Council approved the purchase of a 3 pt. mount boom flail mower.
- They discussed a penalty fee for home owners and landscapers failing to get a permit prior to starting construction/landscape projects.

May 13, 2019 - Regular Session:

- Public Hearing and council approval of the FY 2018-19 Budget Amendment.
- Council approved all readings of Ordinance #171 – Adopting a New Section 45.29 of the Wahpeton City Code Prohibiting Tobacco and Nicotine Use in Any City Park.
-Council discussed implementing a storm water utility but decided to get home owners input.

June 10, 2019– Regular Session:

- Council heard from residents concerning storm water issues.
- Council voted to withdraw consideration to rezone Ingham/Okoboji Bible Camp to I– Institutional zoning.
- Bills were approved and paid for the 180th St Water Main Project and the West Street Water Main Project.
- Approved Ordinance 170—Amending water rates.
- Approved Ordinance 172—An Ordinance requiring "Landscapers" to be permitted to work in the City of Wahpeton.
- Approved replacing the rip rap on the end of Newport Street.

City of Wahpeton Storm Water Utility Informational Letter/Questionnaire

One of the positive happenings in Wahpeton has been the steady growth and improvement of homes. However, as more development and impervious surfaces have been added so has more water run-off. With the last few years of more than normal precipitation and high waters, the City Council has had several residents express concerns with flooding in their homes, standing water and erosion issues. The existing storm water system within the city, is aged and probably now undersized and has become an issue that the council feels may need to be addressed.

Also, with the increasing federal and state mandates on storm water runoff and the importance of improving water quality in the Iowa Great Lakes area, council does want to reduce and improve the quality of storm water runoff from Wahpeton.

Historically, the City of Wahpeton has funded small storm water issues through the collection of property taxes. But, because of the complaints and the unusually wet springs and summers the last few years, the city council has recently hired engineers from Beck Engineering, Inc. They plan to inspect and evaluate the existing storm water system and to offer suggestions on needed repairs and upgrades to improve storm water drainage within the city. Unfortunately, this would involve extensive upgrades and with that a shortage of funding to make the needed improvements.

The City recognizes that nobody is excited about the prospect of an additional utility charge. Unfortunately, aging, undersized infrastructure, and mandates have resulted in needs that can no longer be ignored. There is an increasing trend among cities to implement storm water utilities as a more equitable way to pay for storm water system improvements.

We would like your input to the Storm Water issues.
(Please return to city hall in the enclosed envelope by August 1st)

1. Do you feel there is a storm water issue in Wahpeton? Yes ◯ No ◯

2. Do you feel the city should do anything about storm water other than maintain what is currently in place? Yes ◯ No ◯

3. Do you feel the city should be more proactive and create a Storm Water Utility so more can be done to control storm water runoff? Yes ◯ No ◯

4. Would you be willing to pay a monthly fee for the storm water utility? If so, what amount?
Yes ◯ No ◯ $_____ monthly fee

5. Would you prefer funding storm water improvements with property taxes rather than an additional utility charge? Yes ◯ No ◯

6. Are there areas in town you feel need to be addressed? If so, where?

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