

Council Approves 2002 Budget

2002 expenditures to increase by 3.75%

The 2002 budget was approved at the December 18, 2001 Council meeting and includes a 3.75 % increase in expenditures over 2001. The most significant change was loss of \$222,000 of a State aid revenue called Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA). To make up for this loss of State aid, the City increased its levy by 20.3%. In addition to the loss of HACA, the City also increased the levy an additional 1.8% to make up for a loss of \$20,000 from a COPS grant for local law enforcement, and 5.3% to finance increases in expenditures and loss of interest income due to falling interest rates. The total 2002 levy increase will be 27.4%. The 2002 budget is available on the City's web site (www.ci.medina.mn.us) as is information on how taxes are calculated (click on Departments, then Administration).

Establishment of Agricultural Task Force

At the December 18th City Council meeting, the Council formed a Task Force to survey issues related to agricultural uses in the City. The Task Force will be made up of Planning Commissioners, Council Members, and residents. The first meeting will be Monday, January 14, at 6 p.m. at the Medina City Hall. Agenda and meetings times will be available on the City's web site.



The Task Force will assess what is happening in agriculture today and how that will affect the City in coming years. The Task Force will also consider whether additional regulations on a variety of agricultural practices (including livestock and horses) are necessary. These could include regulating the size or total square footage of accessory structures, limits on number of animals per acre, manure management practices, protection of wetlands from grazing, etc. If you are interested in these issues, please come to voice your opinion.

There will be a time for public comments at each meeting and the Task Force also will try to invite impacted residents and property owners to meetings. Councilmember Jim Lane will chair the Task Force. If you have any concerns, you can call him at 612-343-7488 (days) or call City staff at 763-473-4643.



4th Annual Uptown Hamel Skating & Sledding Party

Saturday
January 19, 2002
Noon 'till Dark

A bonfire will help keep you warm!

Behind Fortin Hardware

Hot Chocolate, Hot Apple Cider, Hot Dogs, & S'mores will be provided (first come, first served)

Please bring a Pot Luck side to share

Moratorium on Agricultural Uses

Recently, the Council became aware of potential weaknesses in some City's ordinances regarding regulation of agricultural uses in the City. Because of this concern, the City Council established a Task Force (see article on this page) to address these issues. Additionally, the Council will consider enacting a moratorium on new and expanded agricultural uses within Rural Residential and Agricultural Preserve Districts, while it considers whether new regulations of agricultural structures and practices are warranted in those zoning districts. This will be addressed at the January 15, 2002 Council meeting. If you have any concerns, please plan to attend.

2052 County Road 24, Medina MN 55340



www.ci.medina.mn.us

City Hall Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone Numbers

City Hall..... 763-473-4643
Fax 763-473-9359
Police emergency.....911
non-emergency 763-473-9209

Official Newspaper

Lakeshore Weekly News
10001 Wayzata Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55305
Telephone Number: 952-473-0890

Mayor

John Ferris763-476-4323

City Council

Jim Lane763-473-3302
Carolyn Smith.....763-475-1003
Phil Zietlow763-473-5263
Bruce Workman ...763-478-8806

City Council Meetings

First & Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Leonard Leuer, Chair
Gerald Brost
Randy Brinkman
Ron Johnson
Sharon Johnson
Dick Picard
Tom Supel
Mary A. Verbick
Elizabeth Weir

Planning Commission Meetings

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Park Commission

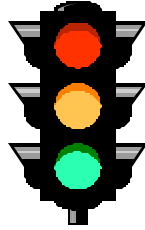
Galen Bruer, Chair
Gerald Dykoff
Ray Essendrup
Tom Gregor
Randy Hughes
Brad Kvanbek
Theresa Richey

Park Commission Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Public Works News

Willow Drive Traffic Signal Update



Earlier this year, the Council approved the reconstruction of the TH55 and Willow Drive intersection, including installation of a signal light. Currently, City staff is working on many of the details needed to be completed before construction can begin.

This project is moving forward in great part to cooperation of property owners, keeping the total cost of the project down. If all goes according to plan construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2002.

Brush Pile Closed!!

IMPORTANT: The City brush pile is closed for the season. Watch for more information in the spring newsletter.

Christmas Tree Disposal

On your regular trash pick up day for the 1st and 2nd week of January, your hauler, Randy's Sanitation or Superior Services, will pick up your Christmas tree, free of charge. Trees must not have any lights or ornaments on them and must not be in a plastic bag. Trees need to be placed next to your trash container. If you cannot get your tree to the curb during either of these two weeks, you will be responsible for disposal.



Snow Plowing

Notwithstanding a mild fall, the snow season is now upon us. When plowing roads, it is almost impossible to prevent damage from being done. There are a few things that homeowners can do to help:

- ✓ Make certain that your mailbox is secure and in good condition. Also, it is the homeowners responsibility, not the City's, to remove snow by mailboxes to provide accessibility for mail carriers.
- ✓ When plowing, it is difficult to plow the fine line between the edge of the road and maintained lawns. If homeowners desire, they can place markers behind the curb line to mark the edge of the road. These markers make it easier for the plow driver. If there is a tremendous amount of snow, these markers may be destroyed when the snow banks are pushed back.

In general, the City does not repair damage caused by snow plowing. It is also illegal to push or blow snow from your driveway onto or across a public road. While the City has not actively enforced this, it will be enforced if problems develop. Homeowners are also responsible, even if they contract to have their driveway plowed.

The City does not have a bare pavement policy and City roads will be more slippery than most State or County roads. A salt/sand mixture is used, mainly on hills, curves, and intersections.

If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, it would be appreciated if you could keep them accessible.

If at anytime you have questions about the City's snow and ice procedures, do not hesitate to call the Public Works Department at 763-473-4643.

Do you know of any water problems in your area...flooding...drained wetlands...etc?

The Pioneer Sarah Creek and Elm Creek Watershed Districts are completing their second generation watershed management plans. As a part of the this, they have requested the City inform them about any problem areas in the City. This could include areas that see occasional flooding, or changes in wetlands, creeks, or streams. If you know of any areas that you believe to be a problem, please call the City staff.



City Survey Results

2001 Medina City Survey

Several months ago, a 55-question survey was distributed to all households in Medina to gauge public opinion on several key issues and City services. All results have been tallied and summarized. In total, 431 surveys were received and processed. This was a great response; and the City thanks all those who took the time to respond. The results will be used to guide public policy and service improvements. A few highlights:

- 431 of 1,350 surveys were returned, a return rate of 32% .
- 94% of respondents also read the Medina News City newsletter.
- 18% had used the City's website (www.ci.medina.mn.us).
- 65% favored regulating light in commercial areas, while 57% favored regulating light in residential areas. This survey result has already guided policy (see "Lighting Ordinance Adopted" on page 4 of this newsletter).
- 71% of those that have cable T.V. rated the service as "fair" or "poor". The Cable Commission has been asked to address this concern.
- 81% rated their service at City Hall as "good" or "excellent"; only 5% found service "fair" or "poor."
- 85% rated the services provided by the Public Works Department their service at City Hall as "good" or "excellent"; only 8% found service "fair" or "poor". The main concern raised related to the quality of City's water.
- 68% rated Medina Police service as "good" or "excellent"; only 5% found service "fair" or "poor."
- Police services that respondents most wanted to see offered or improved were "more general patrols" (45% favored this option) and a "neighborhood watch program" (42% favored this option).
- Walking/running and biking topped both the list of respondents' current activities and the list of activities they would partake in if the activities were made available. Walking/running, biking, and children's play equipment were the most popular choices for future City funding.
- 47% rated the condition and usability of the City's parks to be "good" or "excellent"; only 11% found the condition and usability to be "fair" or "poor."

Complete survey results are available on the City's website (www.ci.medina.mn.us), click of Administration the City Survey.

Thanks again to those that responded to the survey and to Andrew Gustafson (who organized this as a part of his Eagle Scout project) and to the Boy Scouts who assisted him in mailing and tallying the surveys.

Other Medina News - Recycling

CABIN SOCIAL

Plans are in progress for the City's fourth annual Cabin Social. If you would like to help with this event or would like to donate money, give Sandie a call at the City Hall, 763-473-4643.

RECYCLING REMINDERS

Medina recycling pick-up occurs every other Thursday. Please have your recyclables out by 7:00 a.m. so that they can be collected. If you would like **free stickers** for your calendar in order to help you remember, stop by City Hall and pick up some. If you would like an extra bin, the City is now selling additional recycling bins for only \$3.00. Calendars are being sent out this week. Please call if you have not received one.

If you missed a pickup, call EZ Recycling at 651-644-6577 or Ameilia Kroger, our recycling coordinator, at 952-476-0012 to make alternate arrangements.

Wheel kits are now available to help you haul your recycling bin. Cost is \$5.00 per set and they, too, are available at City Hall.

Remember that the City bills residents for recycling services. Any questions regarding billing should be directed to the City and not EZ Recycling. Call Laura Sulander, Deputy Clerk, with your questions at 763-473-4643.

PERMIT ACTIVITY

Through November, permit activity has been fairly strong. General permits, which include plumbing and mechanical work etc. total 237 and building permits total 125. Building permits included 18 new residential dwellings with a total value of \$10,634,700. The value of all permits was \$16,150,000. There was one new commercial office/warehouse in the Hamel area on Tower Drive for Sprangel Construction.



Lighting Ordinance Adopted

Recently, the City Council adopted a lighting ordinance. Originally the ordinance was going to regulate light in both the commercial and residential areas of the City. However, the final approved version only regulates light in the commercial areas of the City. One of the significant issues for the businesses is the section requiring compliance by 2004. A copy of this ordinance is available on the City's web site.

Newly Adopted or Amended Ordinances

Since the previous newsletter, several ordinances have been amended or adopted. They include:

- Uptown Hamel PUD
- Rural Commercial Holding (RCH)
- Rural Residential Urban Reserve (RR-UR)
- Lighting Ordinance
- Administrative Section (Added a Site Plan review)

All of these ordinances are available at City Hall or on the City's web site. (www.ci.medina.mn.us)

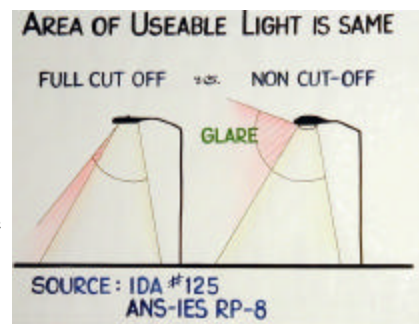
PLANNING ACTIVITY

- A twinhome P.U.D. (Planned Unit Development) has been approved for the Charles Cudd Company. The site is north of Highway 55 and east of County Road 101. Site work has begun, and the first two permits have been issued. The project, called Medina Highlands, will consist of 68 units, 34 buildings.
- In the same neighborhood, just to the south of Medina Highlands, talks are underway for a multi-family condominium building with approximately 114 units for those 55 years of age and older. A concept plan review is tentatively scheduled for the February Planning Commission and City Council meetings. Developers would like to start construction in the summer of 2002.
- The Wild Meadows Project, north of Highway 55, north of Evergreen Road, and west of County Road 101, is progressing on schedule with a model home completed and applications for 4 additional homes on the south end of the development.
- During the past few months, the Planning and Zoning Department has been conducting site inspections of businesses to check for compliance with their conditional use permits.

Lighting & Its Impact on Neighbors

During development of the new lighting ordinance, the City learned a lot about light, both its positive and negative effects. One of the most significant issues was the impact of light on your neighbors. It is like a barking dog, if the neighbors can't hear the dog, it does not bother them. Same with light. If the glare of light is not visible, then it often does not bother most people.

While the City Council did not decide to regulate light in residential areas, they did discuss the need for neighbors to be aware of the potential negative impact their lights might have on their neighbors. There are several ways that you can help reduce or eliminate glare from reaching your neighbors' property. The easiest way to fix this is to install shades or blinders on your lights. Another way is to purchase full cut off fixtures. This type of fixture tends to have a higher initial cost but is more efficient and can pay for itself over time. An example of street light with full cut-off versus non cut-off is provided below. If you would like to know more about the potential impacts of light, a PowerPoint presentation made by Tine Thevenin is available on the Planning Department's page on the City's web site.



Medina Police Reserves

The Medina Police Reserve Program has added several new officers this year. Training for these recruits and other reserve officers occurs at monthly meetings and local training sessions throughout the year. Through the end of September, the department has provided 450 hours of training. In January 2002, the department will send one officer to the Hennepin County Reserve Officers Training school for the 10-week program.

Last fall several reserves participated in local fire departments' open houses. Child Safety was this year's theme, including demonstrations of the proper use of car seats for children. Two booklets were given out to families—one discussed internet safety, another provided reflective stickers for Halloween costumes.

Service hours by these local volunteers continue to grow. As of September 30, the total 2001 hours logged stood at 2,490, compared to 1,236 for the same time period in 2000. Some of the activities that the reserves participated in included the Cabin Social, the Hamel Rodeo, and other events in neighboring communities. On a weekly basis, reserves assist licensed officers with a wide range of duties, assist motorists with lock-outs or stalls, transport suspects to jail, and respond to animal complaints.

"Our reserve officers have developed an excellent reputation among surrounding police departments," according to Officer Chris McGill, the program's coordinator.

Chief Ed Belland explains, "Their activities not only save the department money, but also help us provide a high level of service to the community."

Two of the reserves will be moving on to professional law enforcement careers, creating new openings. Anyone interested in volunteering for the reserve program should contact Officer Chris McGill at (763) 473-9209.

Identity Theft Threatens Your Credit

Over the last year we have had several cases of identity theft. This occurs where a thief steals a purse or wallet, and uses the identification, along with the victim's social security card, to steal the victim's identity. Thieves apply for credit and run up huge bills in the victim's name, often destroying the credit history of the victim. It may take years to recover from being a victim of identity theft.

Here is some critical information to limit the damage if you or someone you know becomes a victim. First, cancel your credit cards immediately. Keep toll free numbers, and card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep the numbers where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where the theft occurred. You will need this to prove to credit providers that you were diligent. This is a first step toward starting an investigation.

Next, notify the 3 national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#. By placing an alert with the credit reporting companies, if some creditor checks your credit they will be advised that your information was stolen and they must contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Don't wait if your purse or wallet is stolen. Report it as soon as possible. Stop thieves from doing more damage to your credit. Below are the numbers for the 3 national credit-reporting companies. If you have any questions, please call the Medina Police Department at (763) 473-9209.

Equifax: 1-800 525-6285
 Experian (formerly TRW): 1-800-301-7195
 Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
 Social Security Admin. Fraud Line: 1-800-269-0271

Police Notes

Seasonal Parking Restrictions

No parking between the hours of 1:00 a.m., to 6:00 a.m., November 1st to March 31st.

Snowmobile Operation in Medina

Please remember snowmobiles are allowed to operate on designated trails but not on private property without the consent of the landowner. Remember to ride cautiously, follow all rules, and respect the property of others. If you have questions feel free to contact the Medina PD or the DNR.



to enforcement action

Out of Town

Please call the Medina Police at 763-473-9209 to arrange for a house check.

Dogs at Large/Barking Dogs

Dogs are prohibited from running at large. Frequent or persistent barking, howling, or yelping that unreasonably annoys or disturbs others is prohibited in the City and is subject