

CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!

City Info Line 507-934-0675 TDD #711

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The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. Please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter



12/12/2012

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of December 10, 2012 included approval of a second change order for the Highway 295 Project and final acceptance of the project; adoption of the 2012 tax levy payable in 2013; approval of the general fund and special revenue fund budgets for 2013; approval of rate modifications and the 2013 budget for the environmental services fund; authorization for modification to the loan terms for the revolving loan provided to REST, LLC; approval for modification to loan terms for the revolving loans provided to Chippewa Packaging; approval for modification of the probationary period for part-time employees; scheduling of a public hearing for closure of a portion of Summit Park related to the Washington Avenue Link Project; approval for execution of a contract with the City of Nicollet for the City of Saint Peter to provide building inspection services in Nicollet; adoption of a 2% wage increase for non-union/non-contract employees; authorization to exchange Municipal State Aid funds for federal funds for the Washington Avenue Link Project; approval of a “finding of no significant impact” for the Washington Avenue Link Project; approval of a use of public property permit for Diamonds In The Rust; closed session to discuss union contract negotiations; and approval of 2013 contracts for the Utilities, Parks, Streets, Police Officers and Communication Technicians unions.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663. Copies of the agenda and Council packet are also available on the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov/city.

HOT SHEET VACATION – The *Hot Sheet* will not be published the week of December 26th, but will return again on January 2nd.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD

PRAFKE – A good “Dust Up”..... That’s what one of my older, much older friends used to say about a confrontation at a meeting.

He would say “now that was a good dust up.” I can still hear him say it in that deep baritone voice from the end on the table as he leaned forward ...”now that was a good dust up”.

Before I came to Saint Peter I worked in Blooming Prairie and before that I worked as the City Administrator of four towns all at the same time. They shared my time and their duties and on occasion, as with any group, there was bound to be a disagreement about what should happen.

That friend and Councilmember I am eluding to was never one to back away from a good “dust up”. He would talk to me afterward about the value, or lack of value, in the “dust up” depending on how it happened.

I think it is important to point out the how it happened part. A good dust up was a disagreement about something, not the flashy disagreement where someone calls someone stupid or some other less than kind name, but an impassioned, civil discussion about facts, focused on goals, coming to a solution that most can agree to. That’s a “good dust up”.

A meeting where feelings are stepped on, where nasty words are exchanged, where people leave and know nothing was accomplished but an argument, where decisions are made by the loudest voice, and where understanding and

consciousness building were not part of the discussion, was a “bad dust up”.

As communities govern themselves through their elected officials, it is sometimes fun to see a bad dust up, watch the crash, see the mayhem that ensues, view the argument like it is a drama or comedy on TV. But my Councilmember knew that a bad dust up was not good for the organization or his community. He knew that arguments rarely solved things for the long term and even more rarely provided the best solutions. A “good dust up” helped issues come to a conclusion, helped people who were passionate about their position get their ideas out on the table and ultimately led to better governance.

Better governance is what he was after, not entertainment value. He knew that he wanted a better community and so did the people who elected him. They didn’t want a sideshow.

As we all try to do what we can to make our little corner of the world better, a good dust up might be just what is needed from time to time. It makes me wonder.....

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REGULATIONS – Snow season is finally here and by now most of us have broken in our snow shovels for the year. As the winter progresses, property owners can avoid a bill from the City by keeping sidewalks clear of snow, ice and blowing snow.



City regulations require sidewalks to be cleared the entire width within twenty-four (24) hours of a snowfall. This regulation is in place, in part, to ensure that the public walkways are available to and safe for pedestrians. The regulation also requires property owners at corner lots to keep the handicap access clear of snow and ice.

Sidewalks that are not cleaned will be cleared by the City and the property owners will be charged for the service. The fee? A minimum of \$65 and an additional \$65 per hour after that.

A salt/sand mixture is available from the Public Works Department for Saint Peter property owners. Up to five gallons is available at no charge, but you will have to bring your own bucket. To get some of the mixture, please go to the front office of the Public Works Department (405 West St. Julien Street) between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. A larger amount of the material is available for a fee. Contact the Public Works Department (934-0670) for more information.

And a reminder....if you will be out of town for any length of time over the winter, please make sure to arrange for someone to shovel your walk so you don’t end up with a surprise bill from the City.

Thanks for your cooperation!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES/HOURS – The Christmas and New Year’s holidays will impact City offices and programs. Here’s a list of closures and changes to hours that might impact City residents:

- The Community Center and Library will be closed on December 24th and December 25th.
- The Library will be open until 5:00 p.m. on December 31st.
- The Community Center will be open until 6:00 p.m. on December 31st.
- Transit hours for the holidays will be as follows:
 - December 24th – 7 am – 4:30 pm
 - December 25th – No service
 - December 31st – 7 am – 8 pm*
 - January 1st – No service

*The Sober Bus will run on New Year’s Eve from 8:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. This service is sponsored by the Blaschko’s Embassy Bar, The Flame Bar, and The Red Men Club. Just call 934-6070 beginning at 8:00 p.m. on New Year’s Eve and you’ll get a FREE ride home.

CALENDAR

Monday	December 17	3:00 p.m.	City Council Goal Session
Monday	December 17	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop CANCELLED!
Monday	December 17	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Tuesday	December 18	12:00 noon	Hospital and Nursing Home Commission
Monday- Tuesday	December 24 - December 25		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY–CITY OFFICES CLOSED
Thursday	December 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority

Friday	December 28	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Tuesday	January 1			NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Monday	January 7	3:30 p.m.		Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	January 7	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 8	5:30 p.m.		Planning and Zoning Commission
Tuesday	January 8	6:00 p.m.		Library Board
Monday	January 14	5:00 p.m.		Human Rights Commission
Monday	January 14	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Monday	January 21			MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEGAL HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	January 22	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Tuesday	January 22	7:00 p.m.		Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	January 24	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 25	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 28	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 29	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	January 30	12:00 noon		Hospital and Nursing Home Commission