

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

The City of Saint Peter is an equal opportunity provider.



The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. To request an email subscription to this newsletter, or for more information, please contact us at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov  www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter

01/08/20

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Action at the City Council meeting held on December 9, 2019 included acceptance of the donation by the St. Peter Area Veteran's Memorial Committee of the Veteran's Memorial in Minnesota Square Park; adoption of the 2019 tax levy payable in 2020 and the general fund, special revenue, debt service, capital and agency fund budgets for 2020; authorization for submission of a Safe Routes to School grant application for a sidewalk project in 2024; approval for purchase of a pool slide for the outdoor pool to be funded by the 2019 Equipment Certificate; adoption of written cash management policies for federal grants and awards; action to concur with the Hospital Commission recommendation for appointment of Joseph Stratton as Hospital CEO; approval of the 2020 Parks Union contract; approval of a wage increase for non-union, non-contract employees; and action to modify the City Administrator's contract.

The next regular City Council meeting, will be Monday, January 13th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center.



MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE) – TRYING to get a

great start on 2020.... Each New Year feels like a new start. An opportunity to wipe the slate clean, mostly, and

start anew. In 2020 we have so many things that were started in 2019 that I am not sure we would want to wipe them all away. So for 2020 here are a few things that need to keep rolling that started before that New Year ball dropped...

Fire Hall - Work continues on cost estimating, design and how to find the money to build it. Right now the plan is to propose a sales tax to help fund a major portion of the construction. The theory on a sales tax is that others who pay the sales tax will be

helping fund this need. I know that we will be paying also, but sales tax is a reasonable way to get others who use our community to help support this basic service need.

New Council - We have four new members on the Council. Helping them get into the new groove of things, including a pretty busy schedule and new assignments not just to the Council but advisory boards and commissions also, will be a big thing. I am confident it will work out fine, but frankly there are a lot of things going on and a number of things to learn about and make decisions on.

Rivers Edge Hospital Expansion Project completion - This project has been in the works for four years with construction taking up the better part of two. As we get to the end of the construction/remodel I am reminded of the need to thank the many, many folks who participated in this work and have helped make the Hospital a great place for health care services. Now add to that a new CEO who will be starting soon at River's Edge and it is clear we have work yet to do.

Upgrading of parks and seeing the new uses that will come to Minnesota Square Park - This is one I am very interested in as data shows parks are so important to the quality of life in communities. Cities that have great parks, host events and allow for places where people can have fun and recreate together are so important. Those are the cities that prosper, especially for those with young families.

Planning for road work - More work on Highways 22 and 169 and City streets are planned for planning. I know that planning for a plan seems weird, but working with a partner like MnDOT, the Nicollet County Engineer and, of course, getting your thoughts on a number of different projects will be taking place in 2020. Please watch for and participate in those opportunities as they come up throughout the year.

Our new website and Recreation software - For us this is a big deal with folks on many levels

working on these important upgrades. It is true that most people see you first through your electronic footprint. I think we are doing good things here to make us user friendly, information rich and aesthetically pleasing for those folks that use our website for business, general information and often that first impression. This will also allow us the opportunity to interface with the community and get the word out on things better than we have been able to do in the past.

There are so many more... Do you see these important efforts as improving your quality of life? I would love to hear from you so contact us at 507-934-0663 or via email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov. Will you let us know what you see as the big things for 2020? It makes me wonder.....

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY GRANT PROGRAM - The City Council has recently adopted the Central Business District Accessibility Improvement Grant program to assist with financing building renovations intended to improve access for those with mobility impairments. It is anticipated that the funds will predominantly be utilized to fund improvements to doorways, handicapped ramps, wheelchair lifts or other improvements such as an installation of automatic door opening systems.

All commercial properties within the Central Business District are eligible to participate. If the structure is located within the Historic Preservation District, any exterior renovations or alterations would first need to be reviewed and approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission.

The maximum grant amount is \$25,000 per property. Projects exceeding \$25,000 may still be considered if the borrower demonstrates they have access to the funds necessary to complete the project. The grant is to be provided interest free.

Participants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the City of Saint Peter which would obligate that the renovations funded under the grant program will be maintained and repaired as necessary for at least 15 years. The agreement will also require that the property is adequately insured. The grant funds will be forgiven at a rate of 1/15th per year.

Grant applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020. Following a review of the applications, those chosen to receive funding will be notified and projects can commence as weather allows. The program is financed by the interest income of the City's revolving loan fund. It is anticipated that the funds available will be sufficient to undertake two or three renovations in 2020.

For more information of the program please contact the Community Development Department at 507-934-0661.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES – Monday, January 20th is the Martin Luther King, Jr. legal holiday. All non-emergency City offices will be closed for this holiday.

- The City Council workshop that would normally take place that evening has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 21st. The workshop will take place at the St. Peter Room beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- City transit services will continue to operate as usual.
- The Library is closed.
- The Community Center will be open as usual; however the Recreation and Leisure Services Department will be closed.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 21st.

WARMING HOUSE HOURS AT VET'S PARK RINKS – We are hoping to have the warming house and ice rinks at Veteran's Park open very soon. Please make sure to check the City Facebook page and website for updates or call the Recreation Department at 507-934-0667 for all the latest news and updates. Once open, the warming house will be staffed with an Attendant during the following scheduled hours:

Mon.–Fri. from 4–9 p.m.,
Saturdays 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sundays 1–9 p.m.
School Vacation Days from 1–9 p.m.

Leisure skating only will be available at one of the Veteran's rinks during the following days/times:

Monday–Friday, 6–7 p.m.
Saturday/Sunday from 1–3 p.m.

The rink/warming house will be closed if any of the following conditions exist:

- Air temperature at -15^o or colder,
- Wind chill temperature at -20^o or colder,
- Temperatures that soften the ice,
- More than 1" of snow accumulates on the ice and maintenance crews are not available (e.g. holidays, weekends).

The warming house/rinks may also close early due to lack of skaters.

For more information on warming house/rink closures please call the Rec Hotline at 934-

0070. Parents are encouraged to call the Rec Hotline prior to dropping kids off or sending them to the rink to make sure the warming house is open.

SIDEWALK CLEARANCE REMINDERS – It’s January and winter is official here. What do winter and sidewalks have in common? The need to clear those sidewalks of winter snow of course!

City regulations require sidewalks to be cleared the entire width within 24 hours of snow ending. This also includes keeping the sidewalk clear of blowing snow and ice.



It’s a hefty charge (minimum of \$75) if City crews come out and do the work for you so, and certainly the Public Works crews have other things to take care of than shoveling sidewalks, so please make arrangements to get those walkways and handicap sidewalk corners shoveled!

TREE TRIMMING – (Not the Christmas tree kind of trimming!) Why is it important to keep trimming our boulevard trees? The City’s Parks crews trim trees to raise the tree canopy over sidewalks to a height of 8 feet and over roadways to a height of 14 feet.

Not only is it required by City Code regulations, but this allows larger trucks, (garbage, snow plows, etc.), to travel next to the curb without hitting and breaking off lower limbs. This also helps with intersection visibility and



street light obstructions. In January City crews will begin tree trimming of boulevard trees for areas north of Broadway Avenue.

Of course this work is weather dependent and may be put on hold if the crew spends lots of time in snowplow trucks!

Property owners are reminded to remove Christmas lights from all boulevard trees when the holidays are over so the lights aren’t damaged by this work.

Anyone with questions on the tree trimming work should contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

SNOWSHOES FOR RENT - Bundle up, get outside (when the weather cooperates!), and experience nature. Enjoy the winter by taking a snowshoe stroll through the woods. The Saint Peter Recreation Department offers rental of adult and youth size snowshoes for \$5 per pair per day, \$10 for the weekend, (Deposit of \$50 per pair due upon pick up). Please call ahead for larger groups (934-0667).

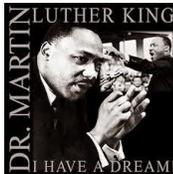
NO ICE IS SAFE ICE – If you’ve lived in Minnesota for more than a winter you probably know that even with our cold temps no ice is safe ice.

Children, adults, ice fishing folks, and even pets should stay off of the developing ice on ponds of water and that includes the Mill Pond, stormwater retention ponds, Hallett’s Pond and the Minnesota River. Please be safe.



CITY MEETING CALENDAR – This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator’s Office at 934-0663.

Monday January 13 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

Monday January 20  LEGAL HOLIDAY – DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY – City Offices Closed

Tuesday January 21 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop



Tuesday January 21 7:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Wednesday	January 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	January 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	January 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	January 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	January 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	February 3	3:30 p.m.	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Thursday	February 6	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	February 10	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	February 11	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	February 17		LEGAL HOLIDAY – President’s Day City Offices Closed
Tuesday	February 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Tuesday	February 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	February 24	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	February 25	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	February 26	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	February 27	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	February 28	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau

*****CITY OFFICE PHONE DIRECTORY*****



New To Saint Peter? Do you need to contact a City department and you aren't quite sure which one to call? The list below might help answer your questions, but if not, please check out the City's website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

Police/Fire/EMERGENCY 931-1550 or 911

- Parking tickets
- Safety programs/classes
- Animal impound
- Municipal Campground

City Administrator 934-0663

- General City information
- City Council meetings and Board schedules
- City Code Information
- Public Information Requests

Community Development 934-0661

- Economic Development
- Planning and Zoning Issues
- Business licensing
- Animal Licensing

Building 934-0662

- Building permits
- Building inspections
- Rental inspections

Finance 934-0664

- Utility payments (billing)
- Refuse collection concerns/questions
- Accounts Payable
- New Utility Account Customer information
- Trash bag sales
- Public Access

MRVT (Rides and office) 888--880-4696

Recreation and Leisure Services 934-0667

- Program registration
- Youth and adult activities
- Park shelter reservations
- Community Center Room Reservations

Recreation Hotline 934-0070

- Cancellations
- Youth Center information
- Senior Center information (934-7434)
- Warming house hours
- Swimming pool hours

Public Works 934-0670

- Electric service construction/repair/outages
- Water service construction/repair
- Wastewater service construction/repair
- Stormwater
- Environmental services
- Streets
- Parks
- Forestry

Public Library 934-7420

- Mondays-Thursdays 10 am – 8 pm
- Friday 10 am – 5 pm
- Saturdays 9 am – 4 pm

Community Center 934-0667

City Information Line 934-0675

- Snow emergency notices
- Electric outages
- City Council agendas
- Meeting Schedules
- Sidewalk complaints
- Snow shoveling complaints
- Weed mowing complaints
- Campground information