CITY OF SAINT PETER
HOT SHEET

1/27/2021

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – The City Council meeting of January 25, 2021 included approval of the preliminary plat, final plat and a development agreement for Windsor Pond Fourth Addition; authorization for execution of a grant agreement with Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District; approval for execution of a renewal agreement to provide library services for Nicollet County residents living outside St. Peter; authorization for City assistance for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge event on March 13th; approval for agreements to accept utility easements across property owned by Ben and Joanna Pell; approval for purchase of a compact tractor to be funded by the 2020 Equipment Certificate; authorization for a closed session as authorized under State Statute to discuss Utilities union contract negotiations; and approval of the 2021 Utilities union contract.

The next regular City Council meeting will be Monday, February 8, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held electronically as authorized under Minnesota Statutes 13.021. For log-in information, please visit the City’s website. The log-in information will be at the bottom of the meeting agenda page which will be available under the “meetings and minutes” section of the homepage the Friday before the Council meeting.

ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES – The City Council needs your help to fill several vacancies on advisory boards and commissions. These boards provide recommendations to the City Council on any number of topics and the recommendations provided by the board members are invaluable to the Council when they take action. Current vacancies include one opening on the Heritage Preservation Commission; two openings on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; and one opening on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Each of these positions are for a three year term and meetings are held on a monthly basis. Additional information on the boards is available on the City’s website at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/325/Commissions-Boards.

Worried about participating during a pandemic? Don’t be. Until further notice all City Council advisory boards are meeting virtually. As long as you have a telephone, or better yet a computer with internet access/camera/microphone, members can participate in meetings from home. Interested in applying? Before you do, please note that applicants must live within the corporate limits of Saint Peter and are asked commit to making the monthly meetings during the entire term. If you meet those requirements, please contact the City Administrator’s Office at 507-934-0663 or by email at barbaral@saintpetermn.gov to request an application.

CITY-WIDE TREE PRUNING - Public Works crews have been busy pruning trees in the portion of the community located south of Broadway Avenue. They are currently working in and around Jefferson Avenue with plans to finish South Front Street in the next week. Winter is a great time to schedule this work in Minnesota. Crews are slightly less busy (unless it snows every day) and pruning a tree when the leaves are off, typically in the late autumn/winter is less stressful to the tree.

For an updated map on tree work activities, please visit the City’s website at: https://www.saintpetermn.gov/230/Environmental-Services-Forestry.
For more information, or for questions on tree maintenance, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

**HALLETT’S POND SKATING** – Last week Hallett’s Pond was opened to ice skating while City crews continue to try and build a sheet of ice at Veteran’s Memorial Park rinks. The new venue was well received, but a few folks created some issues by driving across privately owned property on the south end of the Pond to access the skating.

If you choose to use Hallett’s Pond for skating please remember that access to the site is only available by foot. Vehicular access is not available and the owners of the property to the south (just off North Third Street) have posted their land as “private property.”

To access the Pond pedestrians should use the public sidewalk/trail that is accessible from the sidewalk on the north side of Hy-Vee, from the marked sidewalk off of St. Julien Street across from Skrove Automotive, or from the sidewalk east of the City’s wastewater treatment plant.

Please note that in the event of any snowfall, City crews will only remove snow from the skating area at Hallett’s Pond after they have completed snow removal from other public areas.

To keep everyone safe, the following rules have been implemented:

- Patrons skate at their own risk and within their comfort zone. When the pond is busy, consider skating at another location or at a different time.
- Use of the outdoor skating areas is self-monitored. Please be mindful of your time on the ice so everyone can enjoy skating.
- Organized practices and games are not currently allowed. Future use of this nature requires a facility use permit from the city.
- Skaters must maintain a 6-foot distance from other non-household members to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Do not visit the rink or any other public place if you are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms.
- It is illegal to drive or park on park paths without proper authorization.

Crews continue to flood rinks at Veteran's Park and hope to have an announcement soon as to when they may open.

Please contact the Recreation Office with any questions at 507-934-0667.

**WINTERFEST MEDALLION HUNT** – Winterfest, the Chamber of Commerce’s annual (but this year substantially reduced due to COVID-19) winter celebration, will get underway on January 29th. One of the only scheduled activities for this year’s Winterfest is the search for the elusive medallion.

As the medallion is usually hidden on City owned property, please remember these words of caution to protect City property.

- The medallion will only be located in an area that is entirely accessible by the public. It won’t be behind locked doors, gates, or fences.
- No digging is allowed. The medallion is hidden above ground and no digging anywhere on City property is allowed or necessary. Likewise, you won’t have to climb a tree to get it.
- Be respectful of public property and be careful not to damage any facilities or structures as you search for the medallion.

The medallion hunt is a fun event for everyone so please be careful as you search and good luck!

**SOBER RIDES FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - Football fans planning to drink on Super Bowl Sunday (February 7th) are reminded to plan ahead for a sober ride home or call a last-second audible before getting behind the wheel. Minnesota is attempting to have another year without a drunken driving death on Super Bowl Sunday.

Here’s some keys to having a safe Super Bowl Sunday:

- Plan for a safe ride — designate a sober driver, use a cab/public transportation, or stay at the location of the celebration. Let family/friends know you are available to offer a safe ride home if you have NOT been drinking.
- Buckle up — the best defense against a drunk driver.
- Report drunk driving — call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

Each year, about 28,000 people are arrested for DWI and one in seven Minnesota drivers has a DWI on record. Those DWI’s have big consequences.
A DWI offense can result in loss of license for up to a year, thousands in costs and possible jail time. Repeat DWI offenders, as well as first-time offenders arrested at 0.16 and above alcohol-concentration level, must use ignition interlock in order to regain legal driving privileges, or face at least one year without a driver’s license. Offenders with three or more offenses are required to use interlock for three to six years, or they will never regain their driving privileges.

DWI enforcement and education is a component of the state’s core traffic safety initiative, Toward Zero Deaths (TZD). A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes — education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

So enjoy the game (or the commercials), and take a safe and sober ride home!

**PARK RESERVATIONS:** Do you have a family reunion planned for this summer? How about an outdoor wedding? Maybe a company picnic? The shelters in Minnesota Square Park, Gault Park, the Mill Pond area of Riverside Park, and Gorman Park can be reserved for your event by contacting the Recreation and Leisure Services Department. A word of caution….the pavilion in Minnesota Square is expected to be a big draw this summer so if you are interested in reserving this particular shelter, don’t delay.

Fees vary depending on the shelter you choose and whether or not the applicant is a City resident. There may also be additional fees if alcohol is involved in the event. For more information please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667 or www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation.

**SPACE HEATERS AND YOUR ELECTRIC BILL** – As the temperatures drop many homeowners rely on space heaters to warm up those hard to heat areas of the house. It’s an efficient, but not very cost-effective way to heat your house as space heaters can dramatically increase your electric bill! Utility customers are already beginning to see big increases in their electric bills that upon careful questioning as to the customer’s electric consumption, can be directly tied to the use of space heaters.

Want to know how much a space heater could be costing you? Here’s a formula to determine the monthly cost of operating a space heater before you plug it in.

\[(\text{Wattage divided by 1,000}) \times \text{hours used} \times \text{cost per kWh} = \text{cost per day}\]

Using that formula and a 1,500 watt space heater, the cost would be:

\[(1,500 \text{ watts}/1,000) \times 24 \text{ hours} \times 11.67 \text{ cents per kWh} = $4.20 \text{ per day}\]

Multiply that by a full month’s usage and that’s an extra $126 per month on your utility bill, so while space heaters may be convenient to use, and newer models are more energy efficient than their older counterparts, they are expensive and you’ll want to take that into consideration before your next utility bill appears in your mailbox.

The cost is not the only reason to be cautious when using a space heater. They can be dangerous if used incorrectly. Here are some tips for proper use of a space heater:

**Do:**
1. Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.
2. Buy a space heater with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over or you forget to shut it off.
3. Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.
4. Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least three feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.
5. Always follow the directions that came with your unit and if repairs are needed, have the work done by a qualified appliance service center.
Don't:
1. Don't leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.
2. Don't use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat and can become a tripping hazard.
3. Don't place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.
4. Don't try to repair a broken space heater yourself.
5. Don't put a space heater in the bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.

RECYCLING CHANGES – A higher than usual amount of materials that cannot be recycled is being thrown into recycling curbsides by City refuse customers. Although you might think this is not a big deal, it can have huge consequences.

If the truck load contains enough non-recyclable materials, the load may be rejected by the recycling plant resulting in the entire load of materials, 99% of which could have been recycled, ending up in a landfill. So you can see why this is an important part of the process to get right.

January utility bills included the 2021 schedule for recycling pickup. If you missed it, here it is again:

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**LJP WASTE SOLUTIONS**

**Guide To Single Sort Recycling**

**Accepted Items:**
- Paperboard boxes
- Aluminum & Metal Food & Beverage Containers
- Food & Beverage Glass Bottles & Jars
- Newspapers, Junk Mail & Greeting Cards
- #1, 2, 4 & 5 Plastic Food & Beverage Containers

**Unaccepted Items:**
- Plastic bags, wrap or film
- Styrofoam packaging, containers or cups
- Ceramics, pyrex, dishes or drinking glasses
- Auto or window glass, mirrors or light bulbs
- Wallpaper, gift paper, tissue paper, sticker release paper, or wrapping paper
- Coffee filters or tea bags
- Candy/gum wrappers, plastic 4 or 6 pack holders
- Oil, anti-freeze or fuel containers
- Photos, transparencies or slides
- Razors, needles or snips
- Yard waste, weeds, wood, or brush
- Pillow envelopes
- Packing peanuts
- Lawn chairs or furniture
- Flower pots
- Carpet
- Clothing or blankets
- Shredded paper
- Holiday lights or extension cords
- Batteries of any kind
- Pizza delivery boxes
- Plastic clam shell food containers

Please follow these guidelines carefully:
- No need to remove stamps, address labels, tape, paper clips, staples, wire, metal fasteners, rubber bands, spiral bindings, caps, lids or plastic tabs.
- Please flatten all cardboard boxes.
- Do not flatten plastic containers.
- Empty & rinse all containers.
- Do not place in plastic bags, paper bags are accepted.

**Recycling Questions?**
Give us a call: 507-625-1968

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**LJP WASTE SOLUTIONS**

**2021 Single Sort Recycling Calendar**

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Holiday's affecting recycling services in 2021 are Memorial Day & Labor Day. Service will be delayed one day.

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**MIND/BODY SPIRIT CHALLENGE** - The Mind/Body/Spirit Challenge is a great way to motivate yourself to be better this winter. The program is offered by the Recreation and Leisure Services Department as a community-wide challenge. It’s not too late to sign up!

Registration is $15 per individual but additional household members can be registered for only $7. All participants will receive a long sleeve challenge t-shirt. The goal of the challenge is to complete as many
challenges as possible within six weeks starting on February 1st. Each time a participant completes a challenge, their name will be entered into the grand prize drawings. The more challenges completed, the more chances to win great prizes!

For more details and to register please visit https://www.saintpetermn.gov/484/St-Peter Challenge, or call the Recreation office at 507-934-0667.

HELP WANTED – The City of Saint Peter is now taking applications for the following position:

- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST (NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR) - The City of Saint Peter is currently accepting applications for the position of IT Specialist (Network Administrator). MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associates degree in Computer Science or related field; Two years of experience in data processing systems and software applications; Experience with LANS (Local Area Networks); Experience in installation, configuration, management and use of servers; Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Outlook and Excel software including installing and configuring Microsoft software; Experience working with the public; Valid Minnesota Class D driver’s license.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Demonstrated minimum two years of experience in integration of SCADA, AMI or other data acquisition and control systems back-up and security; Demonstrated minimum of two years of experience in network design, support, back-up, security and documentation; Demonstrated two years of experience in deploying hardware including pc’s, VoIP phones, multifunction devices, smartphone and other peripheral devices; Demonstrated experience in wire pulling, termination and testing. Salary $64,500 - $71,500 per year. Applicants are required to complete a City application form available in the City Administrator’s office at 227 South Front Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1-5 p.m., by calling (507)934-0663 or online at https://www.saintpetermn.gov/365/Employment. Completed applications must be received by the City Administrator’s office by 5:00 p.m. February 3, 2021. Online interviews will be scheduled February 10-11, 2021. Faxed and/or late applications will not be accepted. AA/EEO

CITY MEETING CALENDAR –***PLEASE NOTE...Until further notice, City meetings may be conducted electronically as authorized under Minnesota Statutes 13D.021. Log-in information for meetings being held either virtually or as a hybrid virtual/in-person will be included at the bottom of the agenda page. Agendas are all posted on the City’s website at www.saintpetermn.gov.

Wednesday January 27 12:30 p.m. Hospital Commission
Thursday January 28 12:00 noon Economic Development Authority
Monday February 1 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop
Thursday February 4 5:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday February 8 3:30 p.m. Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday February 8 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
Monday February 15 LEGAL HOLIDAY – President’s Day – City offices closed
Tuesday February 16 5:30 p.m. City Council Workshop
Tuesday February 16 7:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday February 22 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 23</td>
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<td>Heritage Preservation Commission</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Hospital Commission</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Economic Development Authority</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tourism and Visitors Bureau</td>
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