

City of Hawley Newsletter

December 2016

City Hall will be closed on
December 26th for the
Christmas Holiday
& January 2nd for the
New Years Holiday.

Happy Holidays

City Hall: 305 6th Street, PO Box 69,
Hawley, MN 56549 (218)483-3331
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Motor Vehicle hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Christmas is the Spirit of Giving - without a thought of getting. Thomas S. Monson

City of Hawley 2016 Year in Review:

- Total Residential Zoning Permits (includes 5 new homes & 1 new duplex) \$1,460,000
- New Business Building (Davis Tire) \$615,300
- New 11 Lot Residential Subdivision—Autumn View Addition \$498,000
- Added 4th Full-Time Police Officer \$45,000
- Electrical – replaced aged electrical underground lines/transformers
in Westgate Area \$30,000+labor
- Water and Sewer Service Line Work \$65,500
- 2nd DNR GRANT to do Phase 2 River Remeandering project south of Hwy 10
involving the golf course & BRRWD (100% grant funds) \$320,000
- New On-Street Walking Path in the NE portion of the City \$5,000
- Airport Projects – pavement replacement & preparations for new hangar
Funded with Federal, State, and Airport Funds \$317,000
- Adopting New/Updated Comprehensive City Plan
- New Off-Peak Electric meters – Giving customers the reduced rate up front \$41,000+labor
- Additional Chairs and Chair Carts for the Community Center \$3,200
- Motor Vehicle Open House 40th Anniversary was celebrated in February

Upcoming events Community Center:

Breakfast with Santa - Dec 3rd
Santa's Secret Shop - Dec 3rd
Senior Santa Day - Dec 7th
Lions Bingo - Dec 10th



"I will honor Christmas
in my heart, and try to
keep it all the year."

~ Charles Dickens

How do I put my non-profit event on Local Cable Channel 14?

Email to:

announcements@arvig.com

Mail to:

Locallink
831 S. Main St.
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Or go to **Arvig.net** - click on television,
then Community Connection.

As we close out 2016 just a few REMINDERS :

- RENEW CITY PET LICENSES - \$6.00/Year Per Pet (please bring rabies vaccination information)
- CITY SNOWMOBILE/ATV LICENSE - No Charge (please bring insurance information)
- SNOWBIRDS: (reminders before you leave town)
 1. Please fill out the Water Shut Off Request form—if you are gone for 30 consecutive days or more, and have your water shut off at the curb as it will save on your utility bill.
 2. Stop in at City Hall and renew your Motor Vehicle License. You can purchase them in advance so that you do not have to worry about car renewals when you are away.
 3. Fill out the Police Vacation watch registration form on the City website: www.hawley.govoffice.com
- Hawley PUC offers a rebate for purchasing LED Christmas lights.
- Hawley PUC offers many electric lighting & appliance rebates.

*Just a
quick
reminder!*

Official City Council Election Results:

Mayor: James Joy
Councilmembers 4-year term:
Ben Gunkelman
Sean Mork
Councilmember 2-year term:
Stacey Riedberger
1071 People Voted. This is a new voter turnout record.
Thank you for voting! These terms begin **Jan 9, 2017.**

UPCOMING COUNCIL VACANCY.....

On January 9, 2017, when James Joy is sworn in to be the Mayor of Hawley, the Council will declare a vacancy for his remaining term on the Council.

If you are interested in applying to fill the vacant Councilmember term (approximately 23 months), please apply using the form below.

If you have questions feel free to call City Hall.

Application Form

City of Hawley - Commission or Board Membership for 2017

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Email: _____

Length of time as a City of Hawley Resident: _____ Years

Please check the commission/board you are interested in serving on:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| _____ Park Board | _____ Planning Commission |
| _____ Airport Commission | _____ Economic Development Authority Advisor |
| _____ Public Utilities Commission | _____ City Council Member |

Reasons you would like to be on the above checked Commission or Board:

(if more space is needed, please attach additional pages)

I certify that all the information I have furnished for this application is accurate and complete:

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Hawley City Boards and Commissions meet between 4 and 12 times a year. All meetings are scheduled in advance so that the City can post the meetings. Feel free to call or stop into City Hall if you have any questions.



HELP US TO HELP YOU...

PLEASE clear the snow from:

Fire Hydrants in your neighborhood so that there will be no delay if there is a fire.

Natural Gas Meter so it can properly vent.

Furnace Outlet & Inlet Pipes that bring fresh air in and the CO² out from your furnace. If this is plugged you can get dangerous fumes in your home and your furnace will quit working.

Sewer Outlet Pipes on your roof that carry sewer gases away from your house drains.

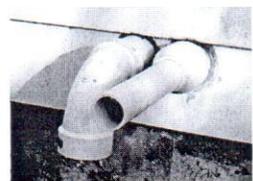
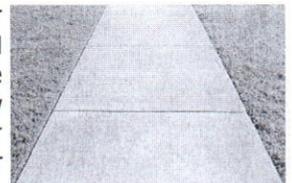


Sidewalks

adjacent to your property and in your neighborhood so that everyone can safely use them in the winter. Keep the snow piles along the street and near driveways and intersections low for good visibility.

Please do not push or throw snow onto any public Street.

Thank You for all your efforts to keep your family and others safe this winter!



HAWLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE - Public Input Sought

The Comprehensive Plan is a statement of the community's values and sets forth policies to guide the long-range development of the city and the adjoining areas. Through the vision, goals, objectives, and policies, the Comprehensive Plan provides a framework for decision-making on the following issues the City of Hawley will face in the future: land use and housing development; community character and civic participation; transportation, including sidewalk and bicycle facilities; economic development; parks, civic, and recreational facilities; and public facilities and services. The Study Review Committee has been working on this plan update for over a year. The "Draft" Comprehensive Plan is available for your review www.hawley.govoffice.com under the "What's New" tab. **A Public Hearing/Input meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5th at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers.**

City of Hawley Proposed 2017 Property Tax Levy

The Hawley City Council has spent numerous hours working with the budget to find ways to provide the services you expect from the City and to keep the cost as low as possible. The services provided directly by the City of Hawley Property Tax Levy through the General Fund are: Police, Fire, Emergency Response, Street Maintenance and Snow Removal, Parks, Library, Elections, Council, City Administration, Assessor, Attorney, General Government, Data Processing, City Hall Building, Animal Control, Vector Control, Community Center, Park Board Projects, Forestry/Boulevard Trees, Economic Development, and many other essential services.

The preliminary 2017 City Levy has \$438,300 for these General Fund expenditures. This is a 5.75% increase over the General Fund portion of the Tax Levy from 2016.

Abatements have been granted as an Economic Development tool to encourage new housing growth (23,300). A portion of the taxes paid in by these new properties will be refunded to the property owners for a specific period of time. So even though these amounts show up on the City Tax Levy, they do not affect the actual taxes of the other City properties. They are paid in and later refund back out. An abatement is also budgeted to be given to AmericInn (\$15,000).

The remaining \$89,700 is Debt Service Levy - dedicated to bond payments for construction cost of 2011 Street Rebuilds and 2013 Hwy 10 & CSAH 31/33 project with traffic signal light on Hwy 10. The City will be paying off the debt on these projects for the next 10 years and 7 years respectively.

This adds up to the Total Proposed City of Hawley Property Tax Levy of \$566,300 in 2017.

The amount your property tax bill will change is dependent upon many factors, including the County, School, and Watershed District Levy amounts.

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing Monday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend our meeting to get information on the proposed City levy and to ask questions and give input to the Councilmembers. The final decision on the City Tax Levy will be made at the December 19th meeting and hand outs from the meeting will be available at City Hall following the meeting.

EXTENDING HOUSING TAX ABATEMENT

The Hawley City Council will be considering extending the Housing Property Tax Abatement for new homes constructed in 2017 and 2018. The Abatement would apply to the first \$200,000 value of the home.

The **Public Hearing Monday, Dec 5th at 6:15 p.m.** is relating to extending a program of property tax abatement to encourage the development of new single-family housing, pursuant to MN Statutes, 469.1812 to 469.1815. All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their view orally or in writing.

Business Highlight

WHO: Hawley Public School
WHERE: 915 7th St. & 714 Joseph St.
WHEN: Established 1900
CONTACT: Elementary: 218-483-3316
High School: 218-483-3555



Hawley Public Schools are home to approximately 958 students in grades K-12. Recent construction and remodeling of existing buildings has placed our facilities as some of the best in the area.

Great facilities, small class sizes and a variety of course offerings make us an excellent choice for your son/daughter's educational setting. Hawley Public Schools employ 127 people, there are 10 activities and 14 clubs and other activities for students in the high school.

GARBAGE RATES - CHANGES COMING in 2017

The City of Hawley has been informed that starting January 1, 2017, the Clay County landfill will change the way they bill. Clay County is changing from a volume (cubic yard) basis to a weight basis.

This change will have a large impact on the rates for the City of Hawley customers. Preliminary estimates show a monthly garbage increase of \$2.85 per residential customer will be needed. Rates have not been finalized and will not change until the February 1, 2017 billing. *Please watch for more information on garbage rates in the January Newsletter.*

This change by Clay County to bill by the weight of the garbage is estimated to cost the City of Hawley customers \$40,800 more in 2017.

The Council is working with Fuchs Sanitation and will be working with our customers to find ways to recycle more and hopefully reduce the weight of garbage going to the landfill - thus holding rates down.

Hawley Recycling Center will be **OPEN**

Sat, Dec 24th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

And

Mon, Dec 26th
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

In an effort to allow you to recycle during the holidays and when you have family members around to help.



Clay County Household Hazardous Waste
Winter Hours Mon & Wed
8 am - 4 pm
2729 Highway 10 E. Moorhead

Reminders from Chief Backlund:

As I am writing this we just experienced our first snowfall of 2016-2017 here in Hawley. I would like to remind residents that in order to effectively remove snow on residential streets by the public works department please remove your vehicles from city streets when snowfall is imminent. By ordinance, there is no parking of any vehicles in the commercial areas of the city from 2am to 6am, November 1st to April 1st.



According to the Minnesota Statute 160.2715, ***“Except for the actions of the road authorities, their agents, employees, contractors, and utilities in carrying out their duties imposed by law or contract, and except as herein provided, it shall be unlawful to obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon and any violation of this section is a misdemeanor.”*** What does this mean in layman terms: it is against the law to put snow on the city street to get it out of your driveway or sidewalk. The depositing of snow on roadway can create a potential traffic hazard to other motorists.

Thank you for your cooperation, Chief Backlund.

DID YOU KNOW??? The City of Hawley partners with many others to bring services and opportunities to Hawley residents.

The City of Hawley Owns:

Hawley Library - Hartford St

Leased at no cost to Lake Agassiz Regional Library - they provide materials & staff

Hawley Clinic Building - Main St - Leased at reduced cost to Sanford Clinic

Hawley Fire Hall - 5th St - Used by Hawley Area Fire District and they participate 50% in the cost of maintenance

Hawley BES Building - 6th St - Reasonable office lease rates given to those who wish to operate a business in Hawley

Garage/Office Building - 6th St - Leased for \$1.00 per year to HERT, Inc.

Hawley Community Center - Main St

Leased to individuals and businesses for events at reasonable rates - self-service set up and clean-up

Hawley Golf Course - land - Leased to Hawley Golf and Country Club, Inc. for \$100 per year.

Hawley Baseball Field and Quad-diamond softball facility

Leased to Hawley Schools for \$1.00 per year for Community Education, Varsity teams, JV teams, and they sublease for softball league use.

Hawley Rodeo Grounds

Leased to Rodeo Provider (Barnes PRCA Rodeo) at no cost (must carry Insurance) for annual Rodeo

Leased to horse groups at no cost when they get signed indemnity agreements from each of their members and carry insurance (they also donate time to upkeep of facility)

Clay County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is open all year round. Not only will the facility take in material, but the Product Exchange will still be open and free to Clay County residents. The materials offered to Clay County residents are paints, automotive supplies, cleaners and more. For more information please see our website claycountymn.gov/403/Household-Hazardous-Waste or contact 218-299-5077.

Natural Gas Rate Increase

Effective with 12-1-16 billing

Residential Gas Rates

Facility Charge \$7.50
*Per 100 CU Ft \$0.72

Commercial Gas Rates

Facility Charge \$9.00
*Per 100 CU Ft \$0.72

*Usage Charge change.

Need Help Paying Your Utility Bill?

West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. administers the Minnesota Energy Assistance Program. They will have you complete an application and they can help you fill it out if you need help.

They also have Weatherization Assistance Programs you may be eligible for.

Contact them for more information at:

(218)685-4486

Toll Free: (800)492-4805

www.wcmca.org