

LAKELAND NEWS

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January 2020

Truth in Taxation Hearing Highlights

Financial Consultant to the City Treasurer Roger Schanus presented the Truth in Taxation hearing for the City. He explained that the need for a levy increase was due major construction projects and levy decreases from 2017 and 2018. Mr. Schanus noted that the preliminary levy increase of 22.31% was reduced after work was done to refine the budget to a final levy increase of 12.60%.

Discussion followed regarding the Quality Ave Street Project and Mr. Schanus noted due to delays in starting the construction resulted in the overall cost of the Project to increase roughly \$100,000.00 each year it was delayed do to insufficient funds to pay for it. Mayor Glasgow disagreed with this assessment stating that the City had allocated \$320,000.00 a year and that the project was delayed because City Council chose to not go forward. City Treasurer Georgeann Janisch noted that the most recent Project bid was higher than the Mayor had noted at 1.4 million.

Councilwoman Lisa Williams stated that the original bid from Harddrives was proposed at just over a million dollars in 2016 and was put on hold between 2017-2018. During the first 6 months for 2019 the City Council did function and was never voted on until August when it was approved she continued. She recommended residents check the meeting minutes for further details of the delays on the City website. She also noted that for the 2018 tax levy \$150,000.00 was taken from reserves for the Quality Ave. Street Project, a point that Mr. Schanus corroborated stating that was done to not increase taxes that year.

The Council and staff heard statements from residents and answered their questions. Concerns were brought up regarding contracts the City accepted for zoning, public works, water department, and snowplowing and if they were put out for bids. Councilwoman Lisa Williams addressed these concerns stating that People Service was already contracted before as the City's water operators and that previous zoning staff were either under qualified or not qualified for the position.



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Highlights of City Council Meeting

(Held 12/17/19 – Complete minutes at City Hall)

- * 16610 8th Street North and 16777 7th Street North (Beanies Marina) property use was discussed. Zoning Administrator Julia Paulsen Mullin stated that City staff including the City Attorney, Administrator, Clerk, and herself met with property owner Chris Onken to request he attend the December meeting and to discuss his business and plans for these properties so staff could provide the Council with its best recommendations. Staff learned that Mr. Onken also purchased an adjacent lot next to 16610 8th St N and noted that this was a substandard lot that wouldn't allow for a house to be built on. There is a need for window and plumbing permits that have not been issued*. City Attorney David Snyder stated that the State of Minnesota has protections in place for individuals who are not able to care for themselves as well as the providers of these services. He also informed the Council that laws relating to community housing might not be appropriate for the City to ask for the details of the occupancy of these properties. Mayor Glasgow noted that the Beanies Marina property has been a long standing cause of complaint for residents until Mr. Onken bought the property, commenting on the improvements he had made to the bait shop and the parking lot make it into an asset for the City. He went on to state that the 8th St. N. property had been a long standing eyesore for the community noting that the City had to take the previous owner to court to force compliance. He again complimented Mr. Onken on cleaning up this property and making it into an asset for the City. Residents expressed concern about the Mayor opening discussion with so much praise for Mr. Onken. Another resident noted that the parking lot's non-permeable surface as well as vegetative cutting done may not be in compliance with local standards. Mr. Onken assured that he had gotten the proper approvals from the City, DNR, and Army Core of Engineers. Councilwoman Lisa Williams asked about office and staff space at 8th St. N. with the owner denying anything other than 4 apartments. Mr. Onken was asked if he would house any registered sex offenders at either of these properties to which he replied that he would not house a sex offender of any level in Lakeland, going on to state that he is not saying this due to complaints but rather that he wouldn't want any tenants of his to be pariah's in their own community.
- *Liquor and tobacco licenses were approved for The Bungalow Inn and Lucky's Wine & More with the City Clerk noting that the Holiday gas station failed to turn in an application before the meeting.
- *FEMA grant application was discussed during a public hearing for 3 houses along the per federal law. Staff noted that the grant provides 75% coverage for these properties with the remaining 25% being paid by the homeowners. Councilwoman Lisa Williams asked how the administrative costs for this process were being paid for and staff informed her that these costs would be paid for by the same 75% - 25% split.
- *A public hearing was held regarding the City's Home Occupation Ordinance where staff stated that the current intent of the current ordinance was to allow home office type businesses but the way it is current written would block all home businesses. Councilwoman Lisa Williams asked if the ordinance could more directly address the signage requirements as she thought they were too broad and staff informed her that they ordinance would only affect properties zoned residential and most signage is already prohibited. Mayor Glasgow wanted clarification on the fees required and if his non-profit would require him to apply, and staff replied that since his non-profit was ran out of his home that he would need to apply for a Certificate of Compliance for \$125.00 to be in compliance with this change.
- *The Final Budget and Levy for 2020 was approved with Mayor Glasgow noting his dissent with increasing the tax levy by any amount. He asked financial consultant Roger Schanus if the City could allocate leftover funds from 2019 as well as the sale of City property adjacent to 1190 St. Croix Trl S. Councilwoman Lisa Williams injected saying that just because there are leftover funds for 2019 as of this meeting doesn't mean that there are not still outstanding services for the year that will be invoiced and stated that she was not in favor of allocating the sale of City property to the levy.

Event Schedule

January 1, 2020
New Year's Day
City Offices Closed

January 8, 2020
Recycle Pickup

January 20, 2020
Martin Luther
King Jr. Day
City Offices Closed

January 21, 2020
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

January 22, 2020
Recycle Pickup

February 5, 2020
Recycle Pickup

February 17, 2020
President's Day
City Offices Closed

February 18, 2020
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

February 24, 2016
Recycle Pickup

February 21, 2020
District 833
Kindergarten
Enrollment Deadline
www.sowashco.org

February 25, 2020
Precinct Caucuses
Major Political Parties
7:00 pm

March 4, 2020
Recycle Pickup

March 17, 2020
City Council Meeting
6:00 pm

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

The City of Lakeland has contracted with Tri-County Services for snowplowing services. Tri-County has provided excellent services in the communities surrounding us for a very long time and we are confident in their work and expertise. If issues do arise that need attention please call our Public Works operator Simon Wirth at 218-491-3575 or email at swirth@peopleservice.com. Thank you for your patience.



Please keep in mind the following reminders during snow season:

- * It is illegal in the city to push snow across or onto a city street. This act is a misdemeanor crime chargeable with a fine.
- * During snow plow events, please do not park on the side of the streets until they are cleared from curb to curb and no parking is allowed between the hours of 1:00 am and 6:00 am through March 31, 2020.
- * Please slow down during the snow fall season to avoid unexpected slippery spots. The city does not sand/salt every single stretch of black top in the city.
- * Snow plow drivers are doing their best to clear the city streets. Please give them the room they need in order for them to do their job.

Water rate increase effective January 2020

The Lakeland Water Utility is an enterprise fund which means it is funded entirely from water revenues. The only source of revenue coming into the enterprise fund are payments received from customers of the water utility. No general fund monies from any of the partnering cities is received. Therefore the water utility operations require adequate funds for repairs, maintenance, water department salaries, and the like. In order to operate effectively water rate increases are necessary from time to time. On an annual basis the treasurer and public works director review the 10 year capital improvement plan along with a 10 year projection income budget in order to gauge whether a rate increase may be in order. This process allows the water utility to raise rates in smaller increments rather than having a large rate hike when funding is at a shortfall. The Lakeland City Council at its December meeting unanimously passed an increase of 35 cents to water rates effective January 1, 2020. The rate increase will be the first increase in the past three years. Water rates will increase from \$2.65 per 1000 gallons to \$3.00 per 1000 gallons. Essentially, for the cost of two bottled waters purchased at the gas station, you could have 16,000 glasses of water from the tap in your house. City water is extremely affordable.

Please feel free to call the Lakeland Water Utility at 651.436.8044 if you should have any questions regarding the rate increase or for water related inquiries.

Valley Branch

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday
3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed on Sunday



January Calendar of Events:

- * Saturday, January 11, 2020—10 am to 2 p.m: Come celebrate Valley Library's new space in Lakeland Plaza! Join us during open hours, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. Stop by during the day to enjoy refreshments, see our new space, hear pop up storytimes, and take home a souvenir from Streetcorner Letterpress.
- * January 13, 2016, 1:00 p.m.—Contraption Club: Rube Goldberg Machines: Join the Contraption Club at Valley Library and build your own contraptions and inventions! Every month we will be learning a new design skill such as soldering, coding, sketching, and more! For ages 10-13. Registration is required.

Read a good book today!

2020 Local Board of Appeal Equalization (LBAE)

Public Hearing to be held April 9, 2020
at City Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Safety first for snowmobiles

Snowmobiles may operate from November 1 to April 1 provided the trail is covered with snow.

The bike trail east of County Road 18 is the designated snowmobile trail. Snowmobiles are not allowed on the paved trail west of County Road 18.

Snowmobiles are not allowed in city parks, ball fields, parking areas or on private property without the consent of property owners (including church/school property).

Be safe first and enjoy the ride!

December 2020 Building and Septic Permits

| Address: | Building Permit: |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 16410 12 St S | New Home Construction |
| 16027 6th St N | Furnace Replacement |
| 296 Quehl Ave N | Water Heater Replacement |
| 61 QUANT CT S | Furnace Replacement |
| 16610 8th St N | Window Replacement |
| 1820 Quinlan Ave S | Re-roof |

Supporting military families throughout the Valley. To become involved in the Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley please contact visit:
<https://5cityyellowribbon.com/about-us/>



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Joseph M. Paiement, Attorney

Licensed in MN/WI

Constance J. Paiement, Attorney

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Stillwater, MN 55082

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City Council Contact Information

Mayor Richard Glasgow: rglasgow@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (612) (651) 472-4390
Councilmember Lisa Williams lwilliams@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 436-4430
Councilmember Joe Paiement: jpaiement@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 967-5050
Councilmember Shayne Orning: sorning@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 436-4430
Councilmember Mike Thron: mthron@ci.lakeland.mn.us or (651) 436-4430

City Website: www.ci.lakeland.mn.us

Please visit the city's website for application forms, city code updates, public notices, meeting information and community news, etc. Please submit community photos for the online community showcase photo gallery to city@ci.lakeland.mn.us

County and State Contact Information

Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel: (651) 430-6213
MN Rep Shelly Christensen: (651) 296-4244 rep.shelly.christensen@house.mn
MN Senator Karin Housley: (651) 296-4351 sen.karin.housley@senate.mn
MN Governor Tim Walz : (651-201-3400) tim.walz@state.mn.us
U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum: (202) 225-6631 betty.mccollum@mail.house.gov
U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar: (612) 727-5220 klobuchar@senate.gov
U.S. Senator Tina Smith: (202) 224-5641 smith@senate.gov

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city@ci.lakeland.mn.us

Public Works Department
(651) 436-8044
swirth@peopleservice.com

Building Department
651-208-4684
dstensland@comcast.net
Permit forms available at
www.ci.lakeland.mn.us

Non-Emergency Contacts
Sheriff: (651) 439-9381
Fire: (651) 436-7033
Animal Control: (715) 386-7789

Visit us on the web at
www.ci.lakeland.mn.us

Call 911 for police

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