Spring Issue

Volume 1 Issue 38 **March 2014**

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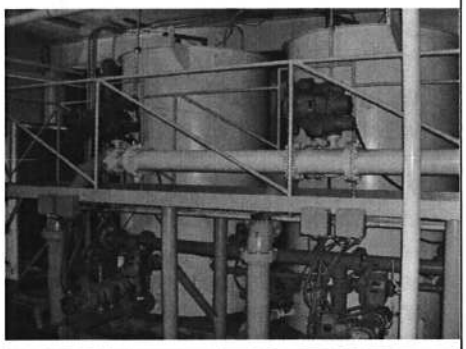

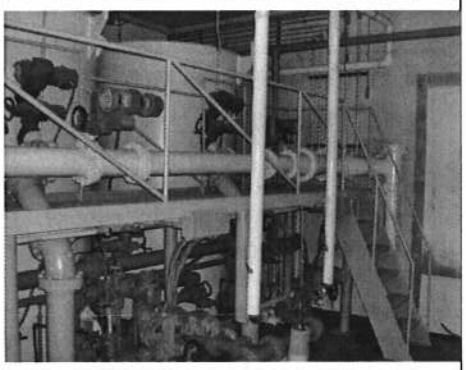

Because of rusting issues, Council approved Mongan Painting to commercially blast, clean and do the DNR required 5 state standard of painting to the pipes and filters in the water plant.

More & more water customers are discovering the convenience of automatic withdrawal for paying their water bills. Just call or stop by City Hall to get set up. You will still receive a bill but the payment will be automatically deducted on the due date indicated on the bill.

TAXES AND BUDGET INCREASE

It's always frustrating this time of the year as the City Council discusses the ever-challenging task of budgeting and how to plan for the upcoming expenses.

There are many items that effect the budget and taxation rates. Some factors that will influence the 2014/15 budget year in the water department include: anticipated repairs and improvements to prevent the zebra mussel infestation (estimated at approx. $275,000), updates to the water plant computer and software ($50,000), and because of the harsh winter repairing and replacing 30+ year old water lines. In the General fund items include: yearly street repairs, storm water repairs, anticipated capital improvements such as saving for a larger water tower, completing the bike trail from 175th to 180th and burying electrical lines. Continued requests from social and recreational agencies in the Lakes area for increased funding (to make up for funds lost because of State & Federal cuts) will also need to be considered.

As you can imagine, creating a budget that will adequately fund needed expenditures is not an easy task and not taken lightly. Council is proud to say Wahpeton has one of the lowest levies in the State of Iowa, however this next fiscal year we are raising the tax levy from 2.5% to 3% to cover the expected expenses. We have not had an increase in many years and plan to work on ways to keep expenses down, yet continue to improve the quality of living in the City of Wahpeton.

Chapter 165 Zoning Ordinance Updates

It has been over 10 years since Wahpeton has updated it's Chapter 165 zoning ordinance. In the past several months, the Planning and Zoning Commission along with help from Steve Hallgren of Northwest Iowa Planning and Development, Attorney Hemphill, Zoning Administrator Clark and City Clerk Roberts, have worked to revise and update the ordinance for Council approval.

The commission has added several definitions with explanations, visual diagrams, and easier to understand regulations. The ordinance establishes specific zoning districts within the city in which certain land uses are permitted by right or conditional use and of which allowed uses will be subject to bulk regulations such as yard setbacks, maximum height of buildings, and minimum lot area and lot width requirements.

The line of sight reasoning and definition is one of the main changes. The front yard setback is 35 ft. or line of sight, whichever is greater. Line of sight is used to protect the view of the lakes as much as possible and prevent lakeshore creeping of new buildings and structures. With that stated, any property owner is not guaranteed a view of the lake anymore than the width of their lakeshore lot.

Council will be holding a public hearing on Monday, April 14th at 5 p.m. to discuss the zoning ordinance before making a decision to approve the first of three readings to adopt the ordinance.

Copies are available at City Hall. Written or oral comments are welcome and the public is encouraged to attend.

Council Clips:

Minutes are published in the Dickinson County News, posted at City Hall & Kazarelli's Restaurant . Complete copies are available from City Hall or on our Website at: **www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com**

January 13, 2014:

- Winther, Stave & Co. gave an audit report.
- Meneyata Park Lot Owners Association was approved to increase the length of the dock on Arrowhead Beach by 20' for safety concerns.
- Council approved a bid from Mongan Painting for $43,410 to blast and paint the filters and pipes at the water plant.

February 10, 2014:

- Council approved Resolution 14-1– Naming United Community Bank as the City Depository and maximum deposit.
- Jean Martin, with Dickinson County Trails gave a report on past, present and future projects and grants.
- Council made adjustments to the proposed budget and set hearing for March mtg.

March 10, 2014:

- Council approved Resolution 14-3 - A Resolution amending the current budget for FY 2014.
- Council approved Resolution 14-4 - A Resolution adopting the Annual Budget for FY 2014/15.
- Council approved a computer & software upgrade at the water plant.
- Council discussed the proposed zoning ordinance Chapter 165 and set a public hearing for Monday, April 14 at 5 p.m.

Office Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 - 4:00 p.m.
City Clerk/Administrator: Bonnie Roberts
Supt. of Public Works: Doug Hanna
Streets & Zoning: Dennis Clark
Council Meeting: 2nd Mon. of the month at 5:00 p.m.
Mayor: Frank Joenks
Councilmen: Brad Jones, Tom Rierson, Phil Johnson, Harold Prior & Steve Feld
Board of Adjustment: 3rd Thurs. of the month at 6:00 p.m.
Chairman: Wanda Nelson
Members: Colin Jensen, Tom Malmgren, Jerry Edwards & Jack Jones
Planning & Zoning Commission: 2nd Tues. of the month at 6:00 p.m.
Chairman: Donna Harris
Members: Tom Hart, Fran Parrish, Mark Foss & LeAnn Blau.

City Hall Information

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Preparing for Zebra Mussels

If you haven't already heard the news, zebra mussels are here and expected to proliferate in coming years, posing a hazard of restricting the capacity of the raw water supply system. Doug Hanna, water superintendent is concerned about protecting the raw water intake screen and piping in the lake, raw water pumping station, raw water main and the water treatment plant. Council wants to be proactive to prevent extensive problems. At the January City Council meeting, Council approved HDR Engineering, Inc. to oversee a project to install new chemical feed equipment in the water treatment plant building. A conduit with multiple redundant chemical feed lines will be installed by horizontal directional drilling from the water treatment plant to the lakeshore and installed by divers from the lakeshore to the intake screen along the intake piping on the lake bottom. A new intake screen of copper alloy materials resistant to zebra mussels will be installed by divers to replace the existing screen.

At an estimated cost of $275,000, the design phase has begun, and bidding is scheduled for June or July with construction to begin in late September.

The City Clerk will be out of the office April 9th—11th attending the Iowa Municipal Financial Officers Association Conference. Please leave a message on the answering machine and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

PETS: You love your pets but your neighbors may not; you need to be a responsible pet owner. Both cats and dogs need to be on a leash when they are outside. It is unlawful for any pet owner to allow the pet to be a nuisance by destroying the property of others, or by frequent and habitual barking or howling.

Pet owners who walk pets on private or public property are responsible for providing for the disposal of pet feces by immediate removal of the waste created by their pet.

Visit us online at:
www.wahpetonia.govoffice.com
For agendas, minutes, public hearing notices, our zoning ordinance and other up-to-date news items.

A reminder to walkers and bikers:

Pedestrians remember when walking or running along the street to do so on the left side of the street so you can see oncoming traffic. When crossing the street pedestrians should yield the right of way.

Bikers should ride and are subject to all rules and regulations as if a driver of a vehicle. They should keep to the right-handed edge of the roadway.

Please have your trash out to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on pickup days.

As a reminder per Chapter 165.02.64 of the Wahpeton Code of Ordinances, residential homes in Wahpeton cannot be rented or leased for any period less than one month. To do so is a municipal violation punishable by a $500 fine per occurrence.