



Mahtomedi News

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2021

www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us

MAHTOMEDI CITY HALL
600 Stillwater Road
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
EDITORS CITY STAFF

MAYOR
Jud Marshall
COUNCIL MEMBERS
Richard Brainerd, Jeff Ledermann,
Jane Schneeweis, Steve Wolgamot

CITY HALL 651-426-3344
FIRE DEPARTMENT 651-426-1080
PUBLIC WORKS 651-773-9730
WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF
911 OR 651-439-9381

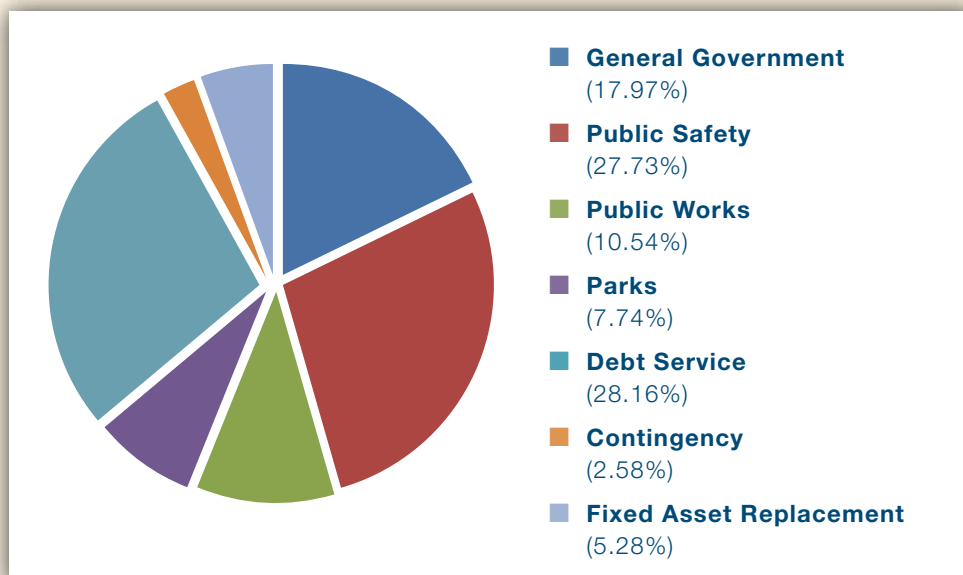
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

City Council Approves Final 2021 Budgets, Tax Levy and Fee Schedule

On December 1, 2020, the Mahtomedi City Council approved the 2021 General Fund, Park Fund and Utility Fund Budgets. The Final 2021 General Fund Operating Budget was approved at \$6,791,615 (8.51% increase from 2020). This was primarily due to a 27.59% (\$413,539) increase in debt service costs. The Final City Tax Levy was approved at \$5,193,284 (7.55% increase from 2020).

The Utility Fund Budgets include the Water Fund of \$1,426,416 (16.83% increase) this was primarily due to increased metering costs, the Sewer Fund of \$1,322,747 (5.78% increase) and the Storm Water Fund of \$1,107,929 (14.70% decrease).

The graph below shows the percentage of each tax dollar by government function/program.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

In 2020, the City Council recognized the following City of Mahtomedi employees for their years of dedicated service to the community:

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

- Bob Goebel** – 25 years
- Sandy Mahoney** – 20 years
- Kevin Bartholomew** – 5 years
- Tom Schwichtenberg** – 5 years

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF

- Chris Dettinger** – 25 years
- Tim Albrecht** – 15 years
- Melissa Johnson** – 10 years

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

The spotlight for this newsletter is on our new Accounting Clerk **Pamela McLellan**.



Pamela started on September 1, 2020 as a part-time accounting clerk. Her duties include utility billing, accounts payable, and general office support. Pamela was born in Wisconsin and moved to Evergreen, Colorado where she lived for several years. She moved back to the Stillwater area to be closer to her family. Pamela holds a B.S. Degree in Mathematics and Biology.

Pamela feels her most important contribution working for the City so far is helping customers and co-workers in any way she can. She likes working in a small community where you get to know citizens and their unique needs. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and snowshoeing in the winter months.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dog Licenses Due

Licenses are required for any dog over six (6) months of age and are due by March 31st. A person is not required to obtain a license for dogs which are brought into the City solely for participation in any dog show or which are being kept in the city by a person fostering the dog for an animal rescue group. The City will issue a dog license at no charge to a properly trained and certified guide dog for visually impaired persons, or service dog for disabled persons, provided that the owner of such dog provides the City with proof satisfactory to the City that the dog is a certified guide or service dog.

The biennial fee for the license is \$20 and available at City Hall. The owner of the dog must provide a certificate showing that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Any dog that is unlicensed and any dog found running at large are declared a public nuisance.

Washington County Library Expands Internet Access with Hotspots, Chromebooks

The devices are available to checkout for up to a month with a library card registered in Washington County.

The hotspots and Chromebooks will help meet a critical need for internet access across the county. According to the 2018 American Community Survey, more than 9,000 households in Washington County do not have a computer with a broadband internet subscription. This need is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as services and programs shift to virtual settings.

“The pandemic has only increased the need for reliable internet access in our communities,” Library Director Amy Stenftenagel said. “Free access to hotspots and Chromebooks will help patrons with distance learning, job seeking, maintaining their small business, and simply staying connected. Internet access has become a core service of libraries, and now we can extend that service outside of our buildings.”

“Free access to hotspots and Chromebooks will help patrons with distance learning, job seeking, maintaining their small business, and simply staying connected.” — AMY STENFTENAGEL, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The devices were purchased with funding from the federal CARES Act. Washington County received \$31.7 million for use aiding residents affected by COVID-19, and distributed some of these funds to the Library to help patrons’ access internet service. Additional hotspots were also purchased with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding CFDA 45.310 (Library Services and Technology Act, Grants to States Program (LS-00-20-0024- 20)).

Both hotspots and Chromebook kits may be checked out for one month at a time, and may be renewed three times if there are no other holds. Devices may be picked up at a local library branch or placed on hold in the Library’s online catalog.

For more information on hotspots and Chromebooks, visit **WashCoLib.org/Devices**.

Washington County Library Featured Events January and February

Washington County Library is currently offering a variety of online programs for residents to enjoy at home! Registration is required so that participants receive the link to join virtually. In addition to featured events, book clubs have transitioned to virtual meetings and storytimes premiere on our Facebook page **every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.**

For more information and a complete list of events please visit <https://www.washcolib.org/> Or contact Aubrey Fonfara, Communications Specialist at **651-275-8504** or by email at aubrey.fonfara@co.washington.mn.us.



green talk



ATTENTION!

Drop-off Sites for Yard Waste and Organics

Due to the disposal sites not accepting commingled organic/yard waste material, Waste Management, the City's contract recycling hauler, will not be offering curbside Yard Waste and Organic collection. This was originally an option for residents to voluntarily sign up for.

The City of Mahtomedi and Washington County are currently working on a drop-off location for all Washington County residents to drop off food scraps within the City of Mahtomedi. We will let residents know when a location is established.

Currently, residents have two options to drop off food scraps in Washington County. Residents can bring food scraps to the **Northern Yard Waste Site in Hugo** located at **5527 170th Street North** or the **Washington County Environmental Center located in Woodbury** at **4039 Cottage Grove Drive**. Hours are listed below. Please visit www.co.washington.mn.us/foodscraps for information on available starter kits and accepted and not accepted items.

Washington County Environmental Center Hours Year Round

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sunday: CLOSED

Northern Yard Waste Site Winter Hours: December–March

Sunday-Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Summer Hours: April–November

Wednesday: 11 a.m.–7 p.m. (or until dusk)
Friday & Saturday: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sunday: Noon–4:30 p.m.

Get started in 3 easy steps!

- 1. Sign up online and pick up a free starter kit!** Starter kits are available to Washington County residents only and include a 2 gallon kitchen pail and 10 certified compostable bags. Limit 1 kit per household.
- 2. Start collecting food scraps at home.** Collect food scraps in a compostable bag inside of your kitchen pail and tie off the bag when full.
- 3. Bring bagged food scraps to a drop-off site.** Place bags into the food scraps dumpster and use the self-serve dispensers to take the same number of compostable bags you dropped off.

www.co.washington.mn.us/foodscraps



Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City once again was awarded a Metropolitan Council Grant as part of the Council's 2019–2022 Water Efficiency Grant Program. The amount of the grant is \$6,300.

Mahtomedi is one of forty cities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area that applied for and was accepted into this grant program.

Grant funds will be used for the City's ongoing water conservation program. The City is offering \$50 rebates to Mahtomedi Water Utility Households replacing washing machines or toilets. Residents can bring in their original purchase receipts and documentation of applicable required certifications (i.e. user manual) and get a \$50 check. Toilets must be labeled Water Sense Certified and use 1.28 gallons per flush.

Washing machines must be Energy Star–Qualified High Efficiency Certified. Rebates are available on a first come first serve basis. One rebate check per household.

Forms are available on the City's website at www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us. For more information, contact City Hall at 651-426-3344.



Freeze Out Winter Fires

Did you know?

- Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January.
- Each year in the United States there is more than \$2 billion in property loss due to winter home fires.
- Last year in Minnesota, 39 percent of fire deaths occurred in October, November and December.

How to be safe!

- Keep all doors and windows that could be used for an escape route clear of snow and ice.
- Keep all vents — fireplace, dryer, furnace and oven — clear of snow, ice and debris.
- Never use a blow torch to thaw frozen pipes.
- Use flashlights, not candles, if you lose power.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heat sources; do not use your oven to heat your home.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay up-to-date on information and news about the City of Mahtomedi.



www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us



<https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Mahtomedi-MN-Local-Government-115273550223842/>

HAVE QUESTIONS?



City Hall — 651-426-3344

Protect the Sewer — Protect the Environment — Don't FLUSH That!

Why pay attention to what goes in the sewer? Sewers are designed to take human waste and transport it to the wastewater treatment plant. When items other than human waste get flushed, problems can occur. Items that won't be able to be treated in the wastewater system or that clog the wastewater system cause your community's wastewater treatment facility to spend more money and energy. Keeping solids and other items out of the wastewater system keeps costs lower and less of a chance of sewage backups. Items that belong in the solid waste or garbage should never be flushed down the wastewater system.

Why You SHOULD Care

Sewer blockages can cause the following:

- Plugged and overflowing toilets
- Poorly draining sinks and showers
- Raw sewage backing up through your drain
- Manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby waters
- Health hazards and odors
- Increase in City's maintenance costs
- Increase in homeowner's repair and maintenance costs

Don't Flush That!

The following can clog the sewer:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Paper towels | ■ Dental floss | ■ Shop rags |
| ■ Wipes — even "flushable" ones | ■ Paper rags or cloth rags | ■ Cigarette butts |
| ■ Plastic | ■ Latex Gloves | ■ Needles |
| ■ Feminine hygiene products | ■ Diapers | ■ Tissues |
| ■ Mop heads | ■ Grease, fats, cooking oils | |

More Salt Isn't Always the Answer

Using salt (chloride) during our icy winters is a necessity for safe roads, sidewalks, and driveways. However, recent studies have shown that excessive salt use can pollute our local lakes and rivers. In response, we need to become smart salters and reduce the use of salt when possible. Here are some tips you can use to make a difference:

- Shovel or sweep snow prior to putting salt down, you won't need as much salt this way.
- If it's below 15 degrees (F), your typical salt loses its effectiveness. Consider other options like sand or different de-icers.
- Only apply salt where needed and leave space between granules. Your average coffee cup holds enough salt for 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.
- Sweep up leftover salt to reuse later.



PHOTO CREDIT:
Lake Superior Streams
Regional Stormwater
Protection Team

Remember, it only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water!

Help us protect our local waterways this winter by salting smart.

FORESTRY NEWS

Protecting Your Trees for Winter

If you haven't already done it there's still time to protect your trees against the winter cold and animals that might damage your trees. Tree protection can be divided into three categories:

1. Physical Barriers

Physical barriers can be set up on trees or around trees to keep unwanted animals from causing damage. These barriers could include plastic grow tubes around newly planted trees, metal chicken wire or hardware cloth, and paper tree wrap.

Grow tubes work well when the trees are small to keep away hungry rodents, rabbits and deer and can be kept on in the summer to protect from summer feeding and weed whip/mower damage and pesticide over-spray. Eventually, the trees outgrow the tubes and larger corrugated tree wraps can go around the trees if necessary. White or green colored tubes are best and should be split to allow for stem growth.

The fence barriers: chicken wire and hardware cloth can be used to keep hungry rabbits and mice away and male deer from rubbing their antlers on the tree stems. Make sure that the wire enclosures are set up far enough away from the stem to keep the animals from reaching through or over the fences. If you are protecting your trees from mice, voles or moles make sure you use a hardware cloth that has small holes (the 1/4" size) to prevent the pests from getting access to the tree. These fences can be left on year-round as long as the stem or branches don't begin to come in contact with the fence.

Paper tree wrap can be used as a barrier to buck rubs and casual feeding from rabbits and voles. It may not be effective against starving rabbits or voles as they can likely chew through the paper. The paper wraps should not be left on during the summer. Plan to have the trees wrapped by Halloween and unwrapped by Mother's Day.

2. Preventative sprays for dissuading feeding and preventing desiccation

Preventative sprays include anti-desiccant as well as anti-feeding sprays for rabbits and deer. The anti-desiccant sprays are designed to put a chemical barrier over the needles of evergreen trees and shrubs to block the loss of water through the openings in the needles (stomata). These treatments are moderately successful and should be coupled with a late fall watering program to help the plants store up as much as water as possible. In some cases plants can be wrapped with material such as burlap or wind screens can be put up to prevent the prevailing winds from blowing on the plants. Anti-feeding sprays use foul smelling compounds like blood meal or rotten eggs to dissuade the pest animals from feeding on the plants. These work well for casual feeders as long as you follow the re-spray directions on the label. They have limited success against starving animals. Read and follow all label directions regarding timing and rates.

3. Mulching

Mulching is done as a root treatment and as a stem protector. Mulch can be organic material such as wood chips, shredded bark etc., or can be a stone mulch. Organic mulches work best for holding in moisture, moderating soil temperature and acting as a barrier to mowers and weed whips. Install mulch so that it is 3" to 4" deep and extends out 2'-4' (or farther). Pull back the mulch from around the stem so it is not resting directly on the bark. Organic mulch has the added benefit of bio-degrading over time and adding organic matter to your soil. Stone mulches (like pea rock or river rock) work well for mechanical barriers but do not biodegrade and don't help with water retention.

If you have any questions regarding tree protection please call the City Forester at 651-747-3736.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Winter Parking Regulations

- On street parking is not allowed in the City of Mahtomedi between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1st and April 1st
- No parking is allowed on any public street when the snow depth exceeds 3" until all streets are fully cleaned
- Residents who violate the ordinance may be ticketed and/or have their vehicle towed. Be sure to inform relatives or guests who may visit your home about the winter parking restrictions so they can avoid being cited or towed.

Questions about the winter parking regulations or snow and ice control procedures may be directed to the Public Works Department at **651-773-9730**.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Sidewalk/Trail Snow Removal

Sidewalk/Trail cleaning in the City typically begins on day 2 after a significant snowfall and after all streets are fully cleared and will continue until complete. If a significant snowfall happens on a weekend and/or holiday, sidewalk/trail snow removal will begin the next business day. The City will maintain sidewalks and trails by moving snow with a snow blower or plow. Sidewalks/Trails will be cleared of accumulated snow but will not be maintained to a "clean pavement" condition (i.e., one to two inches of snow will remain on sidewalks after snowplowing operations).

Frozen Pipes at Home

Homeowners should know that frozen water service lines may be an issue during the winter months. In the past couple years several water service lines froze in Mahtomedi. **Homeowners are responsible** for the entire water service line from the house to the water main.

If you have any questions about your water service, please contact Public Works at **651-773-9730**.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Facts About Chimney Fires

Your chimney — and the flue that lines it—adds architectural interest to your home, but its' real function is to carry dangerous flue gases from your fireplace, wood stove or furnace safely out of your home.

As you relax in front of your fireplace or bask in the warmth of your wood stove, the last thing you are likely to be thinking about is the condition of your chimney. However, if you don't give some thought to it before you light those winter fires, your enjoyment may be very short-lived.

Why?

Dirty chimneys can cause chimney fires, which damage structures, destroy homes and injure or kill people.

Indications of a chimney fire have been described as creating:

- loud cracking and popping noise
- a lot of dense smoke, and
- an intense, hot smell

Chimney fires can burn explosively — noisy and dramatic enough to be detected by neighbors or people passing by. Flames or dense smoke may shoot from the top of the chimney. Homeowners report being startled by a low rumbling sound that reminds them of a freight train or a low flying airplane. However, those are only the chimney fires you know about.



Nine Signs that You've had a Chimney Fire

Since a chimney, damaged by a chimney fire, can endanger a home and its' occupants and a chimney fire can occur without anyone being aware of them it's important to have your chimney regularly inspected by a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep. Here are the signs that a professional chimney sweep looks for:

- "Puffy" or "honey combed" creosote
- Warped metal of the damper, metal smoke chamber connector pipe or factory-built metal chimney
- Cracked or collapsed flue tiles, or tiles with large chunks missing
- Discolored and/or distorted rain cap
- Heat-damaged TV antenna attached to the chimney
- Creosote flakes and pieces found on the roof or ground
- Roofing material damaged from hot creosote
- Cracks in exterior masonry
- Evidence of smoke escaping through mortar joints of masonry or tile liners

If you think a chimney fire has occurred, call a **CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep®** for a professional evaluation. If your suspicions are confirmed, a certified sweep will be able to make recommendations about how to bring the system back into compliance with safety standards.

Depending on the situation, you might need a few flue tiles replaced, a new liner system installed or an entire chimney rebuilt. Each situation is unique and will dictate its own solution.

Proper Maintenance

Clean chimneys don't catch fire. Make sure a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep® inspects your solid fuel venting system annually, and sweeps and repairs it whenever needed. Your sweep may have other maintenance recommendations depending on how you use your fireplace or stove.

CSIA recommends that you call on CSIA Certified Chimney Sweeps®, since they are regularly tested on their understanding of the complexities of chimney and venting systems.

City of Mahtomedi

600 STILLWATER ROAD
MAHTOMEDI, MN 55115

Mahtomedi: A "Small Town" City

...Close knit small town atmosphere. Residents have strong connections with each other and take pride in the community. By working together to maintain the small town atmosphere, residents, business and community leaders have created a safe environment in which to live, work and learn.

...Natural Resources. The abundance of bodies of water, vegetation and nature areas create a natural setting for City parks for residents to enjoy.

...Excellent Education. The educational system and educational opportunities provided in cooperation with the Mahtomedi School District and Community Education creates an informed community.

...Location. Located on the east shore of White Bear Lake, within twenty minutes of Minneapolis and St. Paul with direct access to Interstate 694 provide residents and businesses with a place to call home.

...History. The history of the Chautauqua Association, Wildwood Amusement Park, cottages, street cars and summer resorts have contributed to the historical significance of the community.

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