



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

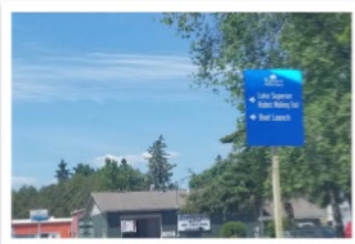
The election in April happened under unusual circumstances and it's been a whirlwind ever since.

My first council meeting was 8 days after I found out that I would become Mayor and my first official act was to ask the staff to change the format of the meeting from a conference call to a Zoom meeting, which some of us attended from home. That was certainly not how I envisioned things, but we adapt.

Since then, there have been a few more meetings, an ongoing search for a Public Works Director (to replace Bob who now works for Bayfield County), a "Curbside Cookie Pick-up" for Castle Guard Celebration Week (previously Week of the Young Child), a tour of city facilities, interviews with engineering firms for the Sewer and Water part of the highway project, and

Wayfinding Signs

Before deciding to run for Mayor, I worked with the Washburn Business Alliance to resurrect the idea of way-finding signs along the highway. With the help of a generous donation to cover the cost of the signs, the council moved forward and approved an updated plan. This is going to help draw attention to all of the assets that we have and will hopefully give people driving through town a reason to stop and spend some time here.



various other things like signing paperwork and responding to queries. I've also met with several departments including Police, Fire and EMS.

Besides navigating a global pandemic, there is also civil unrest due to systemic racial inequities that has led to

demonstrations and protests, even in our quiet little community. Some good questions are being asked and our own police policies are being reviewed to make sure that they are equitable and follow state statutes. Chief Johnson has been very open to conversations about this and would be happy to answer any specific questions you have. We are fortunate that we haven't had any issues with excessive force and we will work to make sure that remains to be true.

The process of updating our comprehensive plan will begin soon and will be happening at the same time as planning for the highway reconstruction project.

I am enjoying the challenge of the position so far and look forward to doing what I can to be a positive part of the team that works hard every day to make Washburn a great place to live.

Upcoming Elections

Elections are coming up on August 11th and November 3rd. The August 11th election is the partisan primary. For City of Washburn residents, there will be two contested races for those that choose to vote under the Democratic Party slate. Those contested races are for County Clerk and County Treasurer. There are no contested races under the Republican Party slate or Constitution Party slate. Eligible voters who are not registered may register to vote by going to myvote.wi.gov or by registering at City Hall.

The last day to register to vote on-line or by mail is July 22nd. Proper proof of residence will be needed to register to vote. Absentee ballots are now available to be mailed out for the August 11th election. You may also go to myvote.wi.gov to request an absentee ballot if you have not already done so. A valid photo ID will need to be provided if you do not have one already on file. Early voting for City of Washburn residents will begin on July 28, 2020 during normal City Hall hours and will continue until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7th. If you have questions about voter registration, absentee ballots, or voting, please call 715-373-6160 Ext. 3 (Tammy) or Ext. 4 (Scott).

Water Meter Project

The City of Washburn is pursuing a water meter replacement project that will hopefully commence this fall. Steps are being taken to have all water meters transmit radio signals so that real time data on water usage can be obtained. In addition, this project will allow the City to detect leaks and water failures, help prevent frozen water services, and reduce water waste. This project will also save significant staff time in the reading and billing process. This is all part of an effort to keep utility costs under control and to operate the most efficient water and sewer service possible. In the coming months, expect to hear more information about this project and how your water meter will be replaced. Details on this will be important for your security and for your safety as we work through COVID-19 protocols as well. Pictured below is a photo showing water meters over the years. The new meters will look like the one on the right. In preparation for this project, please make sure there is access to your meter and that your water shut-off valve, before the meter, is functioning.

