

CITY OF WASHBURN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Fall 2021

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

All of a sudden, it's fall with cooler temps, beautiful leaves and alas, shorter days. Who would have thought that we'd still be in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Making it Work

Another thing that is continuing is a shortage of people to respond to ambulance calls. The old system of relying completely on volunteers to take care of this responsibility is not working anymore. We had a recruitment event in July that had a helicopter and flight crew, virtual reality demonstration, current EMTs to answer questions, and instructors from Northwood Tech with information. With all of the effort that went into that, only one person showed up. Every time I hear a siren (which is often more than once a day), I think who it might be that is in need of assistance and then I think about how grateful I am that there are EMTs on the way. That isn't always the case, though. Sometimes there isn't anyone available and we have to look to Ashland or other neighboring communities to answer a call. That is happening more often as of late and that is not a sustainable system. There is no quick or easy solution to that problem, but we do need to try to find one.

WISDOT PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

This will be the first opportunity to see a draft of the Phase 1 plans for the Bayfield Street Project scheduled for 2024. It is a great opportunity to ask questions and express concerns while there is still time to make changes.

See details on back.



One scenario that is being seriously considered is to hire two full-time EMTs to cover the weekday hours when most of our EMTs are working their regular, paying jobs. If we don't do this, the problem will continue to worsen. It's time to fix the problem with a more permanent solution. It is our responsibility to make sure that our community is able to respond to emergency calls and there is simply no other way to turn.

This change, along with paying our police officers a wage that is more in line with our surrounding communities, would require a tax increase. Our property tax revenue for city operations is very limited due to state-imposed levy limits. One of the only sources of increased tax revenue is when there is new construction, and we have only seen about \$5,000 per year in new tax revenue annually. The only other ways the city gets revenue is from shared revenues from the state (which have declined over the past 20 years) and from fees such as building permits and camping. We used to have more police officers, more public works staff and a recreation department. Because costs keep increasing, we have had to continually cut the operating budget in order to stay afloat.

Due to levy limits, the only way to increase taxes is with a referendum. If the city council approves a resolution in October to have a referendum on the ballot during the spring 2022 election, you will see a lot more information about all of this. No one wants to pay more in taxes, but we all want the services that are needed to keep us safe. Stay tuned – and stay in touch.

- Mayor Mary Motiff

Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project - Phase 1

The City and the WI Dept. of Transportation will hold three public information sessions focusing on current design details of the Phase 1 portion of highway reconstruction from Thompson Creek to Washington Avenue.

www.cityofwashburn.org/bayfield-street-project.html

Location:

The Club (3 W. Bayfield St.)

Oct. 6th

5:00p-6:00p for local officials.
6:00p-8:00p for local businesses.

Oct. 7th

5:00p-7:00p for the general public.



Automatic Bill Pay **DIRECT DEBIT**

Pay your quarterly Utility Bill with ease and on time using the direct debit option. Contact City Hall for the Direct Debit Authorization form, 715-373-6160, ext. 2, or find one here: www.cityofwashburn.org/public-works--utilities.html



Email Billing

Receive your quarterly Utility Bill over email. Contact City Hall for the Email Billing Request form, 715-373-6160, ext. 2, or find one here: www.cityofwashburn.org/public-works--utilities.html

City of Washburn Fall Clean Up 2021

Saturday, November 6, 7:00 am - 2:00 pm

Dumpsters are available for **CITY OF WASHBURN RESIDENTS ONLY**. Citizens will be able to get rid of all types of waste. **EXCEPT:** food waste & hazardous materials will not be accepted.



Fee schedule is subjectively set up as:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Large Car Load... | 10.00 |
| Pickup Truck Load... | 20.00 |
| Larger Trailers... | 30.00 |
| SMALL APPLIANCES Such As: Microwave Oven, Toaster Oven... | 20.00 |
| LARGE APPLIANCES Such As: Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers... | 20.00 |
| Stove, Water Heater, Washer, Dryer... | 10.00 |
| VCR/DVD Player... | 5.00 |

TELEVISIONS

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Large (27" diagonal or greater)... | 40.00 |
| Small (less than 27" diagonal)... | 25.00 |
| Wood Console TV/Projection TV... | 50.00 |

COMPUTERS

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|--|-------|
| Laptop, Hard Drive, Monitors, Scanners, Printers... | 15.00 |
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TIRES

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| Car and Light Truck... | 4.00 ea. |
| Semi... | 15.00 ea. |
| Large Tractor or Grader... | 32.00 ea. |

CAR BATTERIES...

NO CHARGE
NO CHARGE

SCRAP METAL...

City Yard Waste Site, 1488 County Highway C