

ZIM CITY NEWS

FALL 2015

2016 Budget and Levy

The City Council approved the preliminary 2016 General Fund budget and levy at the September 21, 2015 meeting, and it has been certified to the County Auditor/Treasurer's office as required. Staff presented several options to the Council for the 2016 budget and levy. Ultimately, Council adopted a proposed budget of \$2,490,074. Council will spend the next three months working with staff to refine the budget and determine opportunities to reduce the levy and proposed expenditures.

2016 REVENUES

The 2016 preliminary revenue budget totals \$2,490,074, a proposed increase of 24.5% over 2015. Revenues include general taxes, state aids, fees, lease revenues and special levies. Certified Local Government Aid (LGA) for 2016 equals \$483,882, and existing special levies total \$69,000 for Debt Service, (2nd Street East Reconstruction and the CH 45 Reconstruction Project), and \$37,000 for Capital Expenditures, which can be used for future road improvements and large equipment purchases. Council also approved the levy of an additional \$225,000 for the first year of a Pavement Preservation Program as recommended by the City Engineer. This will allow for crack and chip sealing on designated City streets on a 7-year rotating basis, if Council follows through with levied funds for this purpose.

The preliminary tax levy of \$1,529,092 is a proposed increase of \$300,551 over what was levied in 2015. Council has options to decrease the levy before final certification in December, including reductions to expenses, increases in revenues, or the use of uncommitted cash reserves as a budget balancing tool, instead of a levy increase.

The Sherburne County Assessor has completed the 2015 City assessments and will increase property market values for taxes payable in 2016. Residential properties will increase by 7.8%, following an increase in 2014 after several years of decreases. However, commercial property values will decrease by 2%. Overall, these changes are expected to increase the taxable market value by approximately \$20,800,000. Despite the increase, the City still has lost over \$182,000,000 in assessed market value in the last 6 years.

2016 EXPENSES

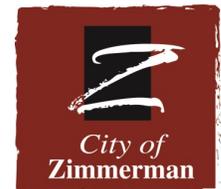
Proposed expenses are projected at \$2,490,074, an increase of \$353,986 from 2015 levels. Increased expenses can be attributed to the following items:

- The first year of payment preservation on designated City streets
- A scheduled increase to the Sheriff's Department contract
- Increases totaling \$61,250 in the Streets and Parks Departments
- Increases in membership dues through the League of Minnesota Cities
- An increase for employee health insurance premiums
- A step increase and a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for employees
- 2016 Primary and General Elections, including the replacement of old equipment in cooperation with the Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer's Office

In November, residents will receive a Truth-in-Taxation statement from the County Auditor/Treasurer. This notice of proposed property taxes includes the amount of that each taxpayer is proposed to pay in 2016, based in the preliminary certified levy. The notice will also include a reminder of the time and date of the Public Comment Meeting regarding the 2016 budget and levy. Zimmerman's Public Comment Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. At that meeting, staff will review the proposed budget and levy with Council. Residents will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The levy will be formally adopted on December 21. Written comments will also be accepted. For more information, or questions regarding the proposed budget and levy, please contact Clerk/Treasurer Kary Tillmann at 763-856-4666, x. 22 or ktillmann@izoom.net.

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CITY HALL HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY
7:00AM - 6:30PM

TUESDAY - THURSDAY
7:00AM - 5:30PM

FRIDAY - CLOSED

CITY OF ZIMMERMAN
12980 FREMONT AVENUE
ZIMMERMAN, MN 55398

PHONE 763-856-4666
FAX 763-856-4787

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



WWW.ZIMMERMAN.GOV/OFFICE.COM

Zimmerman Adopts a Social Host Ordinance



On July 20, the Zimmerman City Council adopted a Social Host Ordinance, which will hold persons who host events or gatherings where persons under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol criminally responsible, regardless of whether the person hosting the event or gathering supplied the alcohol. This will allow law enforcement to charge adults who knowingly provide a place for underage drinking. Sherburne County, the cities of Elk River, Big Lake, Becker, St. Cloud, and Princeton also have Social Host Ordinances in place to help discourage possession and consumption of alcohol. If you have any questions regarding the ordinance, please contact Randy Piasecki at 763-856-4666.

Hydrant & Water Main Flushing

The Zimmerman Public Works Department will be flushing hydrants and water mains as part of routine fall maintenance.

The tentative start date is Monday, October 5th. Hydrant flushing will take place Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm for approximately two weeks. During this time you may experience some water discoloration or pressure changes. This discoloration is normal and will last only a short time after hydrants have been flushed. The water discoloration can be remedied by running cold unsoftened tap water for a few minutes to clear it up. The discoloration is safe for drinking, but you may want to reschedule laundry or other work that may be affected by the discoloration.



Flushing allows the Public Works Department to purge rust and stagnant water from the distribution system. In addition, it allows the department to identify hydrants in need of maintenance. If you have any questions or concerns you may call Dave Johnson, Public Works Director, at 763-856-4088.

Time to Clear the Streets

Zimmerman's snow plowing crews are gearing up for the upcoming winter season—tuning up the trucks and stocking up on sand and salt supplies. They're also asking residents to do their part by removing portable equipment, such as basketball hoops and skateboard ramps from streets and cul-de-sacs. Even if visible, these items block traffic movement and prevent a thorough plowing job. It's important to note that garbage cans left out for weekly garbage and recycling pickup should be placed at the end of the homeowners driveway, not out in the street.



Zimmerman's winter parking regulations banning on-street parking between 12:01 a.m. and 8 a.m. go into effect on November 1st. The parking restrictions, which are designed to facilitate plowing during the snow season, continue through April 1. Residents who violate the ordinance could be ticketed by the Sherburne County Sheriff's Department.

Winter Parking Regulations

Correction Regarding Burning Permits—Summer 2015 Newsletter

According to Fire Chief, Ryan Maloney, residents needing a burning permit for larger burns can only obtain a burning permit from the Zimmerman/Livonia Fire Department at 763-856-2280. Please contact Chief Maloney if you have any questions.

Angel Trees—Help Children in Need

It will soon be that time of year—time to shop 'til you drop! While out shopping for gifts for loved ones, it's important to remember those in need. Neighbors Helping Neighbors is doing their part by setting up Angel Trees at local Zimmerman businesses. Angel Trees provide holiday assistance to children in the Zimmerman area in need of new toys and clothing. Individuals wanting to contribute will select the angel of a child they'd like to help, purchase the items, and drop them back off to the business for distribution. For more information, please contact Angela Christenson at 763-634-6030, Jennifer Manthy at 763-241-3505, ext. 2813, or the Zimmerman Chamber of Commerce at 763-856-4404.



Hunger in a Community Affects Us All

If you or someone you know needs help supplementing their food budget, you can turn to two community food distributions for assistance.

PASSING THE BREAD FOOD DISTRIBUTION - Held the 4th Saturday of each month from October-May from 8 am to 10 am at the Sherburne County Public Safety Building, located at 26750 5th St W. For more information on volunteering or making a donation, contact 612-805-7241 or email: passingthebread@yahoo.com. You may also access the website for Passing the Bread at www.zimmermanfooddistribution.com.

FAITH PANTRY - Held every Thursday, donuts and coffee are from 8:15 to 9:00 am. Food distribution is from 9 am until gone at Faith Community Lutheran Church, located at 12266 255th Ave NW. Food is limited, so plan to arrive early. To learn more, contact Lisa Brix at 763-772-5288.

Prevent Water Pollution & Protect Ground Water

Yard waste that sits around can easily wash into storm drains when it rains. Even if the waste doesn't contain chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides, the introduction of grass clippings, leaves and twigs can overwhelm the waterways with unhealthy quantities of phosphorous which negatively impact pond water quality and increase algae bloom. While it's almost impossible to eliminate this type of pollution, there are some ways to help minimize it.

- Use a mulching mower instead of a bagging grass clippings. Mulching mowers add a natural layer of compost to your lawn, and you don't have to deal with disposing of grass clippings.
- Dispose of yard waste properly. Yard waste, including trash, leaves or twigs cannot be burned in a backyard fire. The city operates a yard waste compost site to help residents who are unable to compost in their own backyard. Anyone wanting to access the site will need an electronic key-card which can be picked up at City Hall during regular business hours.
- Pick up litter and properly dispose of trash. Litter isn't just unsightly; it also contributes to water pollution. Just about every material, from paper to cigarette butts to aluminum cans contains chemicals that can leach out into the environment. Trash or junk sitting in your yard or driveway can be just as harmful as trash illegally dumped by the side of the road. It's also important to maintain your vehicles to prevent leaking fluids onto your driveway. If leaking occurs, don't use water to wash the fluids down your driveway and into the storm drains. Clean up drips with absorbents like kitty litter or sawdust and properly dispose of them.
- Clean up pet waste. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and other pollutants. While a good rain storm may wash your dog or cat's poop away, it isn't really gone—it's in the water supply. Promptly pick up after your pet, and seal the waste before throwing it in the trash.

The Minnesota Crosswalk Law: Key Elements

How many times have you been driving along and seen someone waiting at an intersection or crosswalk to cross the street and wondered if you should stop? Or how many times have you stopped for a pedestrian so they could cross the street but watched other cars keep driving in the approaching lane? The following are some key elements to the Minnesota Crosswalk Law that everyone should follow in regards to pedestrians crossing the street.

- ⇒ Where traffic control signals are not in place or in operation, a driver must stop for a pedestrian crossing within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. A vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk can proceed once the pedestrian has completely crossed the lane in front of the stopped vehicle.
- ⇒ A pedestrian must not enter a crosswalk if a vehicle is approaching. There is no defined distance that a pedestrian must abide by before entering the crosswalk, but common sense should prevail. The law states: "No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield."
- ⇒ When a vehicle is stopped at an intersection to allow pedestrians to cross the roadway, drivers of other vehicles approaching from the rear must not pass the other vehicle.
- ⇒ It's unlawful for the driver of a motor vehicle to proceed through a group of school children crossing a street or highway, or past a member of a school safety patrol or adult crossing guard who is directing children across the roadway and who is holding an official signal in the stop position.
- ⇒ Failure to obey the law is a misdemeanor. A second violation within one year is a gross misdemeanor.

Resource: Minnesota Safety Council—<http://minnesotasafetycouncil.org>

Annual Notice To All Residential Customers

Bills can pile up just like snow. The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule is designed to protect people who may have trouble paying their utility bills in winter. The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule applies from October 15 to April 15. The rule, established by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, means that your utility provider cannot disconnect your residential utility service during the winter if the customer meets the following requirement:

- 1) Utility disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source;
- 2) The customer has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the utility (Note: customers receiving "any form of public assistance," including energy assistance, are deemed to have qualified for inability to pay status);
- 3) The household income of the customer is less than 50 percent of the state median income level, as documented by the customer to the utility, and
- 4) The customer enters into and makes timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

If you have trouble paying your utility bill, local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. The State Department of Human Services recommends that you call Sherburne County Health and Human Services at 763-765-4000 for additional information.



Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

If you know you're going to have trouble paying your water and sewer bill, please contact Teri Grote in Utility Billing at 763-856-4666, ext. 23, to work out a payment schedule.

City Offices will be Closed

November 11, 2015

In observation of Veterans Day

November 26-27, 2015

In observation of Thanksgiving

**December 24, 2015
Closed at Noon**

December 25, 2015

In observation of Christmas

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

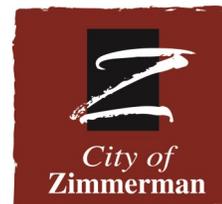
21st Annual Fall Wildlife Festival	Oct 3	10 - 3 p.m.	SNWR
Farmers' Market (Last Day)	Oct 6	3-6:30 p.m.	Lion's Park
City Council Meeting	Oct 5	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Park Board Meeting	Oct 7	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
Chamber Fall Festival	Oct 10	12-6 p.m.	City Park
COW Meeting	Oct 12	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
City Council Meeting	Oct 19	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Passing the Bread Food Distribution	Oct 24	8-10 a.m.	Public Safety Building

NOVEMBER

Winter Parking Regulations	Nov 1		City Wide
City Council Meeting	Nov 2	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
COW Meeting	Nov 9	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Veterans Day Observed	Nov 11	Closed	City Offices
Park Board Meeting	Nov 10	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
City Council Meeting	Nov 16	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Passing the Bread Food Distribution	Nov 21	8-10 a.m.	Public Safety Building
Thanksgiving Holiday Observed	Nov 26-27	Closed	City Offices

DECEMBER

City Council Meeting	Dec 7	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Public Comment Meeting	Dec 7	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Celebrate the Season	Dec 5	10-4 p.m.	City Wide
Breakfast with Santa	Dec 6	8:30 a.m. - Noon	Civic Building
COW Meeting	Dec 14	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Polar Express Train for Tots	Dec 8-9	9:00 a.m. - Noon	Civic Building
Park Board Meeting	Dec 10	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
City Council Meeting	Dec 21	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Passing the Bread Food Distribution	Dec 19	8-10 a.m.	Public Safety Building
Christmas Bird Count	Dec 19	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	SNWR
Christmas Eve Holiday Observed	Dec 24	Close at Noon	City Offices
Christmas Day Holiday Observed	Dec 25	Closed	City Offices



MAYOR

**DAVE EARENIGHT
612-226-2779**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

**TONY BRISBIN
763-238-8197**

**RON MATHISON
763-856-2969**

**BETH MERWIN
763-856-3508**

**JEREMY NATHE
612-709-7570**