

ZIM CITY NEWS

FALL 2016

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2017 Budget and Levy

The City Council approved the preliminary 2017 General Fund budget and levy at the September 12th Council meeting, and it has been certified to the County Auditor/Treasurer's office as required. Staff presented several options to the Council for the 2017 budget and levy. Ultimately, Council adopted a proposed budget of \$2,502,224, with revenues proposed at \$2,549,747. This budget includes a proposed levy of \$1,494,000 which is no change from the 2016 final levy amount. Council will spend the next three months working with staff to refine the budget and determine opportunities to reduce the levy and proposed expenditures.

2017 REVENUES

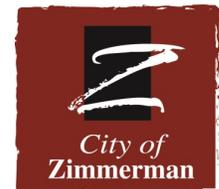
The 2017 preliminary revenue budget totals \$2,549,747, a proposed increase of \$94,602 over 2016. Revenues include general taxes, state aids, fees, lease revenues and special levies. Certified Local Government Aid (LGA) for 2017 equals \$487,597, which is an increase of \$3,715 over the 2016 amount. Existing special levies total \$69,000 for Debt Service, (2nd Street East Reconstruction and the CH 45 Reconstruction Project), \$225,000 for the 2nd year of the City's Pavement Preservation program and \$37,000 for Capital Expenditures, which can be used for future road improvements and large equipment purchases. The preliminary tax levy IS NOT increased from 2016 and is proposed to remain \$1,388,000 plus the special levies, unless additional monies are necessary for additional budget items. Council has the same options to decrease the levy before final certification that you have had in the past, 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 will increase 2016 property market values for taxes payable in 2017. Residential properties will increase by 4.8%, following an increase of 7.8% in 2016. Commercial property values will decrease by less than 1%. Overall, these changes are expected to increase the Estimated Market Value of the City by approximately \$18,050,000. Despite the increase, the City still has lost over \$182,000,000 in assessed market value in the last 7 years.

2017 EXPENSES

Proposed expenses are projected at \$2,502,224, an increase of \$60,115 or 2.5% from 2016 levels. Increased expenses can be attributed to the following items:

- A scheduled increase to the Sheriff's Department contract
- Increase in Fire Relief Association Aid which is offset by Aid revenue received from the State of Minnesota
- Increase in Building Inspection related expenses due to increased permit activity and State surcharges
- Decrease in the Elections budget, as 2017 is not an election year
- Small Increases in the Streets and Parks Departments
- Increase of \$20,000 to Capital Expenditures for a proposed electronic records management system
- An increase for employee health insurance premiums, as suggested by the City's insurance agent based on current market trends.
- Administration suggested step increase and a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for employees, as well as the allowance of limited overtime for Public Works employees

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 2017, 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 2017 budget and levy. Zimmerman's Public Comment Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016 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 19. 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



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

Voting Information!

The City of Zimmerman will conduct Municipal Elections in conjunction with the State General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 for the purpose of electing the Mayor and two Council Members. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The following individuals have filed for City offices: (listed in alphabetical order)

MAYOR - Dave Earenfight - Jan Nicodemus

CITY COUNCIL - Ron Mathison - Beth Smith - Jay Whiting

For additional information or questions about the upcoming election, registering to vote, or voting by absentee ballot, contact Kary Tillmann, City Clerk/Treasurer at 763-856-4666 ext. 22 or ktillmann@izoom.net.

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 3rd. 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 May 1st. Residents who violate the ordinance could be ticketed by the Sherburne County Sheriff's Department.

Winter Parking Regulations

Why Property Taxes?

Why do we have property taxes?

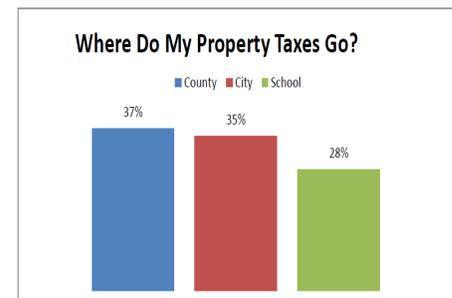
Local property taxes help fund local programs and services, such as public schools, fire and police protection, streets, libraries, and more. Property taxes fund school districts, towns, cities, counties and other special taxing districts. Property taxes are generally a more stable source of revenue than sales or income taxes. Property taxes are less susceptible to economic, income or spending trends.

What affects my property tax bill?

A number of things can affect your property tax bill, but local government spending and non-tax revenues will affect it the most. In addition, a portion of your property taxes are used to fund the local school district.

How are our property taxes distributed?

In 2015 Zimmerman residents' property taxes were distributed as follows: Sherburne County receives 37%, City of Zimmerman 35% and the Independent School District 728 received 28%.



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.

Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival Celebration

The Zimmerman Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 8th from 11am to 3 pm at the city park located at 25850 Main Street. The Chamber has a fun day of FREE activities planned for you and your family. There will be food, a Sherburne County Sheriff's Department squad car, horse trolley rides and booths representing our local businesses.

Call the Chamber office for more information or to register as a business at 763-856-4404.



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 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 September-May from 9 am to 11 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.

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, 2016

**In observation of
Veterans Day**

November 24-25, 2016

**In observation of
Thanksgiving**



**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

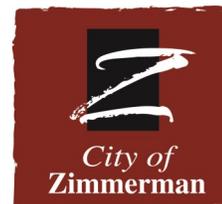
City Council Meeting	Oct 3	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Park Board Meeting	Oct 4	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
Chamber Fall Festival	Oct 8	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	City Park
Fire Prevention Week	Oct 9-15		All Week
COW Meeting	Oct 10	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
City Council Meeting	Oct 17	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Passing the Bread Food Distribution	Oct 29	9-11 a.m.	Public Safety Building

NOVEMBER

Winter Parking Regulations	Nov 1		City Wide
Park Board Meeting	Nov 1	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
City Council Meeting	Nov 7	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Veterans Day Observed	Nov 11	Closed	City Offices
COW Meeting	Nov 14	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Passing the Bread Food Distribution	Nov 19	9-11 a.m.	Public Safety Building
City Council Meeting	Nov 21	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Thanksgiving Holiday Observed	Nov 24-25	Closed	City Offices

DECEMBER

Celebrate the Season	Dec 3	10-4 p.m.	City Wide
Breakfast with Santa	Dec 4	8:30 a.m. - Noon	Civic Building
City Council Meeting	Dec 5	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Public Comment Meeting	Dec 5	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Park Board Meeting	Dec 6	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Polar Express Train for Tots	Dec 6-7	9:00 a.m. - Noon	Civic Building
COW Meeting	Dec 12	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Passing the Bread Food Distribution	Dec 17	9-11 a.m.	Public Safety Building
City Council Meeting	Dec 19	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
Christmas Bird Count	Dec 19	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	SNWR
Christmas Day Holiday Observed	Dec 26	Closed	City Offices



MAYOR

DAVE EARENFIGHT
612-226-2779

COUNCIL MEMBERS

TONY BRISBIN
763-238-8197

RON MATHISON
763-856-2969

JEREMY NATHE
612-709-7570

BETH SMITH
763-856-3508