



October meetings

City Commission, Oct. 7 and 21, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Oct. 6 and 20, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Oct. 13, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Oct. 6 and 28, 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning and Zoning Commission, Oct. 27, 5:15 p.m., City Hall

Fire Prevention Week activities

The Mandan Fire Department will host the "Through the Smoke" walk and run on Oct. 4 at Raging Rivers Water Park. The 5K/10K race begins at 9 a.m. and is followed by a 5K walk at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to register, visit www.runningintheusa.com and search for "Through the Smoke."

The department will also host a fire truck parade on Tuesday, Oct. 14. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Mandan Rural Fire Station. An open house will be held at the Mandan Fire Station #1 at 110 Collins Ave. following the parade.

"Fuel for the Finish" run

The N.D. CattleWomen will host the third annual "Beefin' it Up - Fuel for the Finish" run and walk on Oct. 4 at the Post. The event kicks off at 9:30 a.m. and is open to the public. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/BeefinItUpFuelForTheFinish.

Update: Movie in the ballpark

The movie in the ballpark is back on for Sept. 12. Gates open at 8:30 p.m. The movie will begin around 9 p.m. A second movie will be shown on Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. It will be shown at Mandan Middle School if the weather does not cooperate.

Budget decreases property tax rate

Since the August first reading of the City of Mandan's 2015 budget, the Budget and Finance Committee is recommending a further decrease to the property tax rate that results in zero increase in property tax collections from the average existing residential property.

The committee will present the proposal for an additional 1.48 mill reduction during the City Commission's second and final consideration of the budget at a Sept. 16 meeting starting at 5 p.m. with the public hearing on the budget scheduled for 6 p.m.

The City's adjusted 2015 budget proposal calls for a total decrease in the 2014 property tax rate

of 7 mills, putting the levy at 75 mills, compared to 82 mills last year. The decrease in the property tax rate offsets the average 9% valuation increase for existing residential properties.

The City has a budget policy that its mill levy will be no higher than the average of the state's other 11 largest cities for the year prior. The average in 2013 was 83 mills.

The City's Budget and Finance Committee is recommending a contribution of \$4,301,608 from property tax revenue toward a total city budget of \$27 million. This is a modest increase in property taxes with the majority of additional revenue stemming from new construction entering the tax rolls in 2014.

The preliminary budget shows a total rise in property tax collections of \$101,011, up 2% from 2014.

Sales tax buy down. The Mandan City Commission is steadily working to decrease property taxes by fostering retail business growth. For the second consecutive year, the budget proposal applies 50% of projected sales tax revenue toward property tax buy down. This is up from a 40% allocation in 2013 and prior years. The sales tax contribution to the general fund budget is pegged at \$1,408,550 in total. Without it, the mill levy would need to be 24.5 mills higher.

Lowering mills to offset value increases. The taxable valuation of Mandan property is estimated at \$57 million in 2014, up from \$51 million in 2013. There was a 12.8% increase in the total value of residential property and a 8.8% increase in commercial property.

For more information about the 2015 City budget, contact the Finance Department by phone at 667-3213. The full budget is document is posted at www.cityofmandan.com.

CITY SHARE OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR AN EXISTING \$225,000 HOME		
	2013 Taxes/ 2014 Budget	2014 Taxes/ 2015 Budget
Mill levy	81.78 mills	75 mills
Home value	\$225,000	\$245,250 (~9%)
x 50% = assessed value	\$112,500	\$122,625
x 9% = taxable value	\$10,125	\$11,036
x mill rate	0.08178	0.075
Property taxes	\$828	\$828
*NOTE: COMMERCIAL PROPERTY HAS A 10% TAXABLE VALUE		





"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Committee studies facilities

The Mandan Sales Tax Committee held a facility focus group session on Aug. 13 to gather initial input from a cross section of community members and recreational stakeholders on potential capital improvement projects. Of the approximately 30 focus group participants, about 65 percent supported a

sales tax increase. Projects receiving the most support include a new indoor hockey arena, a new or improved City Hall and a north side fire station.

The Mandan Park District, Mandan City Commission and Mandan School District will study costs for various projects and options. Stay tuned for dates of public information meetings.

Any potential sales tax increase must be taken to a vote of the citizens in Mandan. To view complete survey results, visit www.mandanparks.com.

Sales tax increase for joint jail becomes effective Oct. 1

As approved by voters in the June election, a one-half percent (0.5%) county sales tax goes into effect Oct. 1. The proceeds are for a new detention center to be constructed in Burleigh County. For Mandan, the combined sales tax rate will be 6.5 percent (5% state + 1% city +.5% county). The county tax will be in effect until the facility is paid for.

8% of Mandan's workforce in oil & gas industries

Job Service North Dakota released its 2013 Oil and Gas Report in August. The report attributed 15.3 percent or 55,137 of the state's jobs to the oil or gas industry. About 8 percent of Mandan's workforce is included in that number.

The report could be the basis for future legislative funding for hub cities. Any city with at least 12,500 people and more than 1 percent of its private employees engaged in oil-related employment is considered a hub city. Hub cities currently receive \$375,000 per year in oil tax revenue for each full or partial percentage point of oil-related employment. City officials will be monitoring the 2015 legislative session for opportunities for funding.

Job Service's primary source for industry employment and wage data is the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program. The report included only direct employment.

New warning siren installed in NW Mandan

A new outdoor warning siren on the corner of Old Red Trail and 56th Avenue will help alert residents of outdoor emergencies, such as severe weather or a hazardous materials release. When the siren is sounded, people should seek shelter immediately. All outdoor warning sirens are tested the last Friday of every month at 9:30 a.m.

Remove campers, trailers and boats from streets this fall

Prior to snowfall, please remove campers, trailers and boats from streets and sidewalks to accommodate snow removal. As stated in City ordinance 20-14-23.5, the time limit for campers, trailers and boats on the street is 12 hours for the purpose of loading and unloading. Violation is enforceable by towing and/or a \$10 fine.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Respondents see need for improved visitor signage

August's online poll asked, "Do you think Mandan needs improved visitor way-finding signage?" Of the 78 respondents, 47 percent felt the City needs improved signage, 32 percent did not see a need, and 21 percent were uncertain or needed more information.

The Mandan Tomorrow - Leadership, Pride and Image Committee is working on a proposal for improved visitor signage. The Visitor's Fund Committee will hear it in the month ahead.

City Contacts

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Airport Authority 663-0669
Assessing 667-3232
Building Inspection 667-3230
Business Development
& Communications 667-3485
Cemetery 667-6044
Engineering, Planning
& Zoning 667-3225
Finance 667-3213
Fire 667-3288
Human Resources 667-3217
Landfill 667-0184
Library 667-5365
Municipal Court 667-3270
Police 667-3250
Public Works 667-3240
Special
Assessments 667-3271
Utility Billing 667-3219
Waste Water
Treatment 667-3278
Water Treatment 667-3275

Receive E-mail Notices

Sign up to receive notice of city meetings and news in the "E-mail Updates" section of www.cityofmandan.com. Meeting dates and agendas are available.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How does Mandan rate as a place to live?

Visit www.cityofmandan.com by Sept. 30 to respond.