



September meetings

City Commission, Sept. 1 and 15, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Sept. 8 and 22, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Sept. 14, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Sept. 10 and 22, 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning and Zoning Commission, Sept. 28, 5:15 p.m., City Hall

Oktoberfest celebrates German heritage, Sept. 26

Celebrate North Dakota's German heritage! Join the Mandan Progress Organization for Oktoberfest at Dykshoorn Park on Sept. 26. Enjoy German food, live music, fall crafts, beer tasting and more! The event runs from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, visit www.mandanprogress.org.

Obstacle course opens at DogTown Dog Park

A new obstacle course is open at Mandan's DogTown Dog Park. The course features a dog walk, bar jumps, culvert tunnels, planks, pause tables and weaving poles. The obstacle course can be used for training or for dog play dates! In addition to the obstacle course, the park offers a grassed area.

The park is open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. It is located at 810 8th Avenue SE, south of the Heart River on Highway 1806 next to Sitting Bull Park. For more information, call 751-6161 or visit www.mandanparks.com.

City officials develop 2016 budget

City of Mandan elected officials and staff are creating the 2016 budget. The budget process began this spring. Departments submitted budget requests in June. The Finance Committee is meeting with department managers and portfolio commissioners to review requests. The committee includes the city administrator, finance director and City Commission Finance Portfolio Holder Sandra Tibke.

The Finance Committee will present its recommendations to the City Commission at its Aug. 18 meeting. On Aug. 28, the City will publish a notice of a public hearing in the *Mandan News*, and budget information will be available at the City Finance Office and on the City's website, www.cityofmandan.com. A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 15, at which time the City Commission will consider adopting the 2016 budget. The Mandan Park District, School District and Morton County are also creating 2016 budgets.

County board adjusts Mandan property values, now submitting to state

The Morton County Board of Equalization made some adjustments to 2015 values for Mandan properties and submitted them for State Board of Equalization review on Aug. 11. The total increase in true and full value of all residential properties is 17 percent and for all commercial properties is 35 percent. For existing properties, the average increase is 14 percent for residential and 20 percent for commercial.

The State Board requires values be between 90 and 100 percent of market value. Mandan's sales ratio is 93.4 percent of value for residential properties and 95.2 percent for commercial properties.

In April, the City Board of Equalization arrived at an average increase of 24 percent in residential values and 36 percent for commercial properties. The City conducted additional re-assessments of properties and in conjunction with the Morton County Tax Equalization Director reviewed the status of several vacant commercial lots that had been classified as residential during a software conversion. Corrections pushed the final commercial sales ratio to 108.5 percent, above the 100 percent maximum. For this reason, the county director recommended a decrease in commercial structural values of 15 percent.

If you have questions, please call Morton County Tax Director Linda Morris, phone 667-3325, or City Assessor Shirley Shaw, phone 667-3232.

City Commission approves cemetery rule updates

The Mandan City Commission approved updates to the rules and regulations at the Mandan Union Cemetery at its July 21 meeting. Commissioners heard recommendations from the Cemetery Task Force and cemetery patrons prior to making the decision.

Changes include limitations on permanent plantings and commemorative items. Annual flowers may be planted the length of the headstone no wider than 8 inches. Loose, cut flowers that are free of wrapping or wire are allowed year round, but plastic and glass containers are prohibited. Visitors can also place floral memorials on graves seven days before holidays. Other commemorative items are allowed if they are attached to the headstone.

See **Cemetery rule updates** page 2



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

City reviews recycling options

The City has received two recycling bid proposals. The proposals included options for both residential curbside recycling and the creation of four community drop-off locations. Proposals were bid at a five-year term. The City Commission discussed the proposals at a July 21 meeting.

Curbside single sort recycling costs include a 96-gallon tote and pick-up every other week. Potential costs range from \$5.50/month/unit to \$7.25/month/unit. The recycling cost would be added to residents' utility bills. There would be no opt-out option for residents to minimize the rate for all and help achieve the maximum reduction on garbage hauling and landfill costs.

Another option for single-sort recycling would be to provide four collection sites throughout the city for residents to take their recyclables. These bids varied based on service needed, but ranged from \$16,650 per year to \$53,207 per year.

The City Commission will further consider options at an upcoming meeting. More information on the recycling bid proposals can be found in the July 21 agenda packet, available under the City Government section of www.cityofmandan.com.

City works to finalize street improvement projects

City of Mandan staff are currently working on finalizing 14 street improvement projects. Benefiting properties will receive a special assessment. A public hearing is anticipated in September. District numbers and project areas are as follows:

- 176 - Lakewood 6th and 7th Additions
- 177 - Meadows 6th Addition
- 178 - Keidel's South Heart Terrace Phase IV
- 179 - Meadow Ridge 3rd Addition
- 181 - Meadows 7th Addition
- 182 - Meadow Ridge 1st Addition
- 185 - Heart Ridge 2nd Addition
- 186 - Macedonia Hills 1st Addition
- 189 - Lakewood 6th Addition
- 190 - Keidel's South Heart Terrace 3rd Addition
- 191 - Lincoln Ridge Estates 6th Addition
- 192 - West Hills 3rd Addition
- 193 - Midway 14th Addition
- 195 - Roughrider Estates Additions

More information, including project descriptions, will be available under the City meetings section at www.cityofmandan.com, or by contacting the Engineering Department at 667-3225.

Cemetery rule updates

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The changes will take effect Sept. 1. Patrons will have until Oct. 15 to collect unpermitted items. After this date, grounds maintenance staff will remove any items that do not comply with the new regulations. Items will be held until June 1, 2016 for anyone who wishes to collect them. The updated rules and regulations are available under the Cemetery section at www.cityofmandan.com. For more information, call the Planning and Engineering Department at 667-3225.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Respondents split on potential Renaissance Zone expansion

July's online poll asked, "Should Mandan's Renaissance Zone be expanded?" Of the 55 respondents, 39 percent felt it shouldn't be expanded, 35 percent thought it should be expanded and 26 percent were uncertain or needed more information. Respondents also voted on possible areas of expansion:

- 57 % more blocks north of Main Street and First Street,
- 26% more blocks on West Main Street, and
- 17% more blocks on East Main Street.

Legislation passed during the 2015 session allows North Dakota cities to expand their zones by up to 11 blocks. The Mandan Renaissance Zone Committee is currently studying options.

City Contacts

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Mandan City Commission
Mayor Arlyn Van Beek
Mike Braun
Shauna Laber
Dennis Rohr
Sandra Tibke

City Departments

Administration	667-3215
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 do you prefer to receive communications from local businesses?

Visit www.cityofmandan.com by Aug. 25 to respond.