



November meetings

City Commission, Nov. 1 at 5:30 p.m. and Nov. 15 at 4 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Nov. 7 and 21, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Nov. 14, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

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

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

State of the Cities, Nov. 8

Mayor Tim Helbling will present statistics on Mandan's growth and progress at the Chamber's State of the Cities breakfast on Nov. 8 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 223-5660.

Businesses invited to learn about local incentives & assistance, Nov. 9

Mandan business owners and managers are invited to an informational session on the topic of economic development incentive and assistance programs on Nov. 9 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Prairie West Club House, 2709 Longspur Trail. A light lunch is included. Advance registration is requested on or before Nov. 8. To register, call 667-3478 or visit www.cityofmandan.com/register.

Budget Consideration

By the time most of you read this, the City Commission will have acted on the 2017 budget. The second and final consideration is scheduled for an Oct. 4 meeting with a public hearing beginning at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place at Mandan City Hall, 205 Second Avenue NW.

2017 budget proposes lower mill levy

The City of Mandan's proposed 2017 budget calls for a decrease in the 2016 property tax rate for city services, despite a significant reduction in revenue from other sources. The proposed budget would cut the levy by nearly 7.5 mills, dropping to almost 59 mills compared to 66 last year.

Lowering mills to offset value increases. An existing home with a \$250,000 value and an average valuation

increase of 13 percent would see no increase in City property taxes. This excludes special assessments for approved projects such as street paving and reconstruction.

The taxable valuation of Mandan property is estimated at \$80.4 million in 2016, up from \$68.4 million in 2015. There was a 13 percent increase in the total value of residential property. The increase to the total value of commercial property was 31 percent.

Fund transfers help eliminate need for property tax increase. The City's Budget and Finance Committee is recommending a contribution of \$4.7 million from property tax revenue toward a total city budget of \$30.1 million. Property tax revenue is budgeted \$198,000 higher with much of the additional revenue stemming from new construction entering the tax rolls and expired exemptions in 2016.

The 2017 budget reflects a difference of \$1.2 million in total revenues from the 2016 budget. Total revenues are expected to be \$31 million. Total expenditures are estimated at \$30.1 million, a decrease of \$928,000 from the 2016 budget.

The City's general fund is facing a \$686,000 reduction in state aid distribution and a \$396,000 reduction in highway tax distribution. The City plans to adjust for the budget shortfall by transferring \$500,000 in hub city funds to the general fund. An additional \$170,000 will come from the 1 percent city sales tax fund, \$170,000 from the BNSF settlement fund, and \$50,000 from the water and sewer utility fund. The general fund will absorb the difference.

Sales tax buy-down. The Mandan City Commission remains focused on lowering property taxes by fostering retail business growth. The budget committee's recommendation for 2017 is to contribute 57 percent of projected sales tax revenue to property tax buy-down, as compared to the policy of 50 percent adopted in 2013 and contributions of 40 percent in 2012 and years prior. The sales tax contribution to the general fund budget for 2017 is pegged at \$1.3 million in total. Without it, the mill levy would need to be about 17 mills higher.

CITY SHARE OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR AN EXISTING \$250,000 HOME		
	2015 Taxes/ 2016 Budget	2016 Taxes/ 2017 Budget
Mill Levy	66.66 mills	59.15 mills
Home value	\$250,000	\$281,750
x 50% = assessed value	\$125,000	\$140,875
x 9% = taxable value	\$11,250	\$12,679
x mill rate	0.06666	0.05915
Property taxes	\$750	\$750

NOTE: COMMERCIAL PROPERTY HAS A 10% TAXABLE VALUE

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"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Committee proposes downtown enhancements

The Community Beautification Committee received tentative approval earlier this summer from the Mandan Supplemental Environmental Projects Trust (MSEPT) to pursue up to

\$750,000 in enhancements for the downtown area.

The committee has proposed extending amenities that already exist in the downtown area to additional areas. Examples include greenery in the form of trees, shrubs or other perennial plants as appropriate to existing street, traffic and utility conditions; plus more of the retro-style pedestrian sidewalk lighting, brick kiosks, park benches, and trash receptacles. Other possibilities include planters, extension of a fence between the railroad and properties along the south side of Main Street, and public art such as sculptures, utility box wraps, alley murals or other ideas that the public may offer.

The area initially identified for the project extends along Main Street from Sixth Avenue NW to Second Avenue NE, along most avenues in this area between Main Street and First Street, and along a portion of First Street NW.

Thirty people attended a public information meeting on Sept. 20 to provide feedback on the potential ideas for enhancements including prioritization and boundaries for improvements. Initial findings will be reported to the Community Beautification Committee and the MSEPT.



Remove campers, trailers and boats from streets this fall

Prior to snowfall, please remove campers, trailers and boats from streets and sidewalks to accommodate for snow removal. As stated in sections 24-7-17 and 24-7-18 of the Mandan Code of Ordinances, no boat, motor home, bus, camper or trailer may be parked on a public street between Dec. 1 and March 31. Violations are punishable by a \$15 fine and towing at the owner's expense.

The time limit for campers, trailers and boats on residential streets is 12 hours for the purpose of loading and unloading from Sept. 15 to Dec. 1 and from April 1 to May 15. The 12-hour restriction is extended to 24 hours during the summer months.

An earlier version of this article that appeared in the Sept. issue of the Mandan Messenger included misinformation on the parking restrictions during the winter and summer months. Corrections have been made to this article to ensure the most accurate information is available to the public.

Budget

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Water, sewer and solid waste. The water volume rate will increase by \$0.10 per 100 cubic feet, and the waste water volume rate will increase by \$0.05 per 100 cubic feet.

The solid waste utility fund which covers residential garbage collection and hauling services will see a base rate increase of \$0.05 per month per living unit. The residential single-sort recycling service will see a base rate increase of \$0.15 per month.

The overall impact for an existing residential property using 800 cubic feet or eight units of water per month is a \$1.40 increase on the utility bill. The last time the volume rates increased was in 2013.

For more information about the 2017 city budget, contact the Finance Department, phone 667-3213. The full budget document is posted at www.cityofmandan.com.

City Contacts

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www.cityofmandan.com

Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling
Mike Braun
Scott Davis
Shauna Laber
Dennis Rohr

City Departments

Administration	667-3215
Airport Authority	663-0669
Assessing	667-3232
Building Inspection	667-3230
Business Development & Communications	667-3485
Cemetery	751-7893
Engineering, Planning & Zoning	667-3225
Finance	667-3213
Fire	667-3288
Forestry.....	751-7894
Grounds	
Maintenance.....	751-7895
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

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