



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

MARCH 2020 • VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 2

April meetings

City Commission, Apr. 7 & 21 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Apr. 6 & 20 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Apr. 13 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Apr. 7 & 28 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning & Zoning, Apr. 27 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Community Litter Clean-Up Day, April 25

The Community Beautification Committee and Mandan Progress Organization are seeking volunteers to pick up litter on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information or to sign-up, visit cityofmandan.com/register. The alternative date in case of inclement weather is May 2.

Spring Clean-Up Week, April 18-25

During Spring Clean-Up Week, Mandan residents may place bulky items for special waste collection pick-up on their boulevard curb. Public Works crews will pick up items that two people can lift including furniture and appliances. Collection will be on the same day as your household garbage collection. For more information and a list of items that will not be picked up, visit cityofmandan.com/cleanup.

Collecting census data important for North Dakota

In March, all households will receive notice to complete the census for everyone living in the home. Census Day is April 1, but data collection begins March 12 and continues through July.

What is the census? The census is required by the federal government and is a count of all persons living in the U.S. conducted every 10 years. It is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, how federal and state legislative districts are redrawn and the appropriation of federally funded programs.

How can you respond? The U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, by phone, or by mail. The Morton Mandan Public Library has computers available for the public to respond online.

How are people counted? Persons in each household will be counted based on where they reside April 1. Individuals living in more than one location should count themselves at the location where they live and sleep most of the time, even if they are a legal resident of another state. Everyone in the household, regardless of age or relationship, should be counted.

What will I be asked in the census? Each household will be asked to indicate the number of people living in the home as well as their sex, age, race and relationship to the person completing the census for the entire household.

How will I respond if I have a P.O. Box? A census form will be hand-delivered to your home by a U.S. Census Bureau employee.

How is census data used? Census data is used to help better our communities and region. This may include community initiatives, legislation and quality-of-life advocacy. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Businesses use the census data to decide where to build offices and stores, creating local jobs. The data is also used to determine funding provided by federal and state agencies for social services and infrastructure projects. Information provided in the census is confidential and protected by federal law. For more information visit 2020census.gov.

Not counting everyone can cost North Dakota dearly



One missed resident equates to \$19,100 lost over a 10-year period!

2019 economic indicators trending in positive direction

City of Mandan management monitors several local economic indicators. The majority of statistics for the 2019 calendar year are now available. Local usage taxes:

- **1.75% sales tax.** Collections are up 6 percent compared to 2018. The City uses revenue from a 1 percent sales tax, amounting to \$2.3 million to reduce property tax as well as assist with infrastructure costs, economic development and municipal debt reduction.

see **INDICATORS** pg. 4





NEW & EXPANDING MANDAN BUSINESSES

New

- United Automotive Network, 2815 Memorial Hwy

Expanding

- 5 Star Auto Detail, 3531 Memorial Hwy

Budget policies updated with guidelines for use of Municipal Infrastructure Funds

The City Commission recently approved an update to budget policies which include funding formulas for the buy-down of maintenance projects from the Municipal Infrastructure Fund, nicknamed Prairie Dog Funds. These funds may only be used on critical infrastructure maintenance projects such as streets, sewer, water lines and airports.

Formulas were created for two different categories of maintenance projects: those with an estimated cost of under \$10 million and \$10 million or more.

Cost-share. For a North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) project under \$10 million with 90 percent federal and state funding, no Municipal Infrastructure Funds will be used since the cost share is above 80 percent. If less than 80 percent federal and state funding is available for a project, Municipal Infrastructure Funds may be used to bring the match up to 80 percent.



Local street maintenance. For a routine project with no federal or state funds, like the recent south side and mid-town east improvement districts, 20 percent of the cost will come from Municipal Infrastructure Funds and the remaining 80 percent will come from special assessments. If less than the 20 percent share is available through the Municipal Infrastructure Fund, then funds from the city's share of special assessments and/or the 1 percent city sales tax may pay for the remaining share.

Water & sewer maintenance. These project costs are to come from the water and sewer utility fund. If the fund is unable to contribute 100 percent, then the Municipal Infrastructure Fund or another city fund may be used for the remaining balance.

The City Commission will determine the funding formula for infrastructure maintenance projects with an estimated cost of \$10 million or more on a case-by-case basis.

The policies provide guidance for the City's budget development process. More information is available at cityofmandan.com/budget.

Donations welcome for boulevard tree planting program

The City of Mandan encourages residents or property-owners to plant boulevard trees by offering partial reimbursement. Since 2017, 175 trees have been planted in city boulevards through the program.

Business donations toward the program of all amounts are appreciated and donors are recognized in the *Mandan Messenger*, and on the City website. Businesses donating \$500 or more by June 1 will receive a plaque. Donors of \$1,000 or more will have their names displayed on a permanent plaque in the Ed "Bosh" Froehlich meeting room at City Hall. Funds are usually available for the entire planting season from April through October.

The resident or property-owner is responsible for the purchase and planting of the tree(s). Once planted, the city arborist will inspect the site and the resident or property-owner may be reimbursed for up to \$50 a tree, with a maximum of \$300 per property.

A copy of the original sales receipt must be mailed to the Forestry Department, 411 6th Ave SW, to be eligible for reimbursement.

For more information, visit cityofmandan.com/trees or call 667-3240. Mandan is proud to be a Tree City USA for 44 years!



Participants are asked to contact the Forestry Department at 667-3240 before planting boulevard trees to verify use of an acceptable species and appropriate planting.

Remediation comes to closure

The Mandan Remediation Trust (MRT) took action at a January meeting to move forward with decommissioning infrastructure and equipment associated from clean-up of an underground fuel spill. The N.D. Department of Environmental Quality recommended site closure based on meeting remediation goals: 1) lack of measurable product in monitoring wells, 2) little to no continued hydrocarbon recovery, and 3) no complaints received of hydrocarbon odors from the area of remediation.

In the coming months, trustees and consultants will work with property owners in the area of remediation to make arrangements to plug wells, remove remote manifolds and other equipment.

The remediation system was comprised of more than 300 extraction and monitoring wells, three buildings, 20 miles of buried pipe, and 11 remote manifolds.

Trustees will work with city officials to determine the future use of a building at 101 E Main Street that served as the central collection and treatment point for hydrocarbons and groundwater. Monitoring wells will remain in place adjacent to the railyard.



Economic Development Association of North Dakota conference attendees take a look inside the remediation building at 101 E Main Street.

Background. The MRT consists of City of Mandan representative Jim Neubauer, independent consultant Francis “Fritz” Schwindt, and North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality Director Dave Glatt. The MRT oversees the remediation of petroleum contamination first discovered underground in downtown Mandan in 1984. In 2004, the State of North Dakota and City of Mandan reached a settlement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway for clean-up of an underground fuel spill.

see **REMEDIATION** pg. 4

Board of Equalization to review property valuations

The City Assessing Department will mail notices of increases by the middle of March to property owners with a 2020 real estate valuation increase of \$3,000 and 10 percent or more. Owners not in agreement with the assessed value may initiate a review of the property valuation by contacting the Assessing Department. Owners may ultimately appeal the valuation to the Mandan Board of Equalization. If you do not receive a notice, you may call the department to find out the taxable value of your property for 2020.

The Mandan Board of Equalization meets at City Hall on April 7 at 7 p.m. to discuss property valuation changes. Mandan’s actions will be forwarded to the County Board of Equalization, which will meet in June. Local taxing authorities will take valuations into account when setting mill levies used to generate property tax revenue for 2021 budgets.

The State Board of Equalization requires all property be valued within 10 percent of prevailing market values. Frequent reasons for notices of increased value include properties with a new or additional structure added within the last year and situations involving expiration of an exemption, such as for new homes or businesses. Values may also change in 2020 as a result of fluctuating market value due to sales of comparable properties occurring in 2019. For more information, visit cityofmandan.com/assessing. To request a reassessment of a property, please call 667-3232.

City Board of Equalization
 Tuesday, April 7
 Mandan City Hall
 7 p.m.



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Indicators from page 1

Revenue from a 0.75 percent tax, generating nearly \$1.8 million is applied to pay off a bond issued for a voter-approved sports complex.

- **1% restaurant and lodging tax.** Collections are up 1 percent at \$489,063. Revenue is used for purchasing, equipping, improving, construction, maintenance, repair, and acquisition of buildings or property consistent with visitor attraction and promotion.
- **2% hotel occupancy tax.** Collections are down 8 percent at \$48,272. Revenue is used to promote, encourage and attract visitors to the city. The majority is allocated to the Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Taxable sales and purchases. The total through the third quarter was \$202 million. That is up 8 percent from same period for 2018. Statistics on the 2019 fourth quarter will not be available from the state tax department until later this spring.



Job Openings

N.D. Job Service reported 2,536 online job openings in December for Burleigh and Morton counties. That's 343 more openings than a year prior.



Residential building. The City Building Inspection Department issued permits for 195 new residential units, up from 124 the year prior. Multi-family units were up with two apartment buildings permitted for 54 units each, but single family home construction was down at 73 units, compared to 114 the year prior.

Commercial and industrial building. The city issued permits for new construction, remodeling and addition projects totaling \$18 million, up from 2018's \$15 million.

Value of all building activity. The value of all projects for which building permits were issued is nearly \$47 million, up from \$40 million last year.

The Assessing Department recorded 727 transactions in total for the year encompassing both commercial and residential properties, 372 of which were normal, arm's length transactions. This compares to 604 total transactions in 2018, 295 of which were normal, arm's length transactions. These are sales on the open market between two unrelated parties, each with reasonable knowledge of market conditions and under no undue pressure to buy or sell. Other transactions might be between family members or involving other special circumstances.

Remediation from page 3

A comprehensive remediation system was constructed between 2005 and 2007.

There's approximately \$5.7 million remaining in the MRT. A portion of funds will be needed to cover the cost of decommissioning the system. The N.D. Department of Environmental Quality will monitor the area and, if no problems arise, may be able to release remaining dollars to the Mandan Supplemental Environmental Projects Trust (MSEPT) in the future.

The MSEPT was also established in 2004 as part of the BNSF settlement to alleviate environmental, economic, social, public health and safety, and other related impacts. It is comprised of Tim Helbling, City of Mandan representative; Francis "Fritz" Schwindt, independent consultant; and Dave Glatt, N.D. Department of Environmental Quality.

City Contacts

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www.cityofmandan.com

Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling
Mike Braun
Scott Davis
Amber Larson
Dennis Rohr

City Departments

Administration	667-3210
Airport Authority	663-0669
Assessing	667-3232
Building Inspection	667-3230
Business Development & Communications	667-3485
Cemetery	667-3240
Engineering, Planning & Zoning	667-3225
Finance.....	667-3213
Fire	667-3288
Forestry.....	667-3240
Grounds Maintenance.....	667-3240
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 at cityofmandan.com/updates. Meeting dates and agendas are also available.