



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

SEPTEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 7

October meetings

City Commission, Oct. 6 & 20 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Oct. 5 & 19 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Oct. 12 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Oct. 8 & 27 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning & Zoning, Oct. 26 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Oktoberfest planning underway

The Mandan Progress Organization is currently planning its annual Oktoberfest event. The late September event may look a little different this year due to COVID-19, but organizers still plan on celebrating North Dakota's German heritage. Stay tuned to *mandanprogress.org* for event updates and information.

Remove campers, trailers & boats from streets

Residents are reminded to remove campers, trailers and boats from streets. 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 Sept. 16 and May 14.

Violations are punishable by a \$50 fine and towing at the owner's expense.

'Free Fall Landfill Week' is Sept. 21-26

The second annual "Free Fall Landfill Week" is being planned for Sept. 21-26. This special week allows residents to dispose of debris free of charge at the City landfill. Here's how Free Fall Landfill Week will work:

- Items will not be collected curbside with residential garbage. The landfill will accept items from Mandan residents, including furniture and appliances, free of charge.
- Residents dumping at the landfill will be required to show identification with proof of address.
- Appliances must be cleaned of all food and other debris before they will be accepted.
- There is a \$2 charge per car or pickup tire. Larger tires, such as those from tractors, semi-trailers or heavy equipment, are charged at regularly listed prices.
- No hazardous waste such as pesticides, insecticides or harsh cleaning supplies may be disposed of at the landfill.
- All paint must be in solid form with the lid off.
- Residents are reminded to tie down or tarp all loads to prevent littering along the roadway. All unsecured loads are subject to a \$20 fee.



FREE Fall Landfill Week
Sept 21-26

The landfill is located at 4103 Co Rd 82, approximately three miles west of Mandan on Business Loop-94, old Highway 10. Travel south a half mile and then west one mile. The landfill will be open Monday, Sept. 21 to Saturday, Sept. 26 from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Visit cityofmandan.com/landfill for more information.

Commission approves recycling contract extension

During an Aug. 18 meeting, the City Commission voted 4-1 to extend the recycling contract with Waste Management for five years. The current single-sort recycling contract was set to expire at the end of 2020.

The original contract was for five years with Dakota Sanitation with the opportunity for an extension. Waste Management purchased Dakota Sanitation in 2017 and became the contractor for pick-up and disposal of recyclable materials. District Manager Mitch Dahlstrom reported during the meeting that when Waste Management took over the contract in 2017 the city was only recycling 70 tons a month, but is now recycling 100 tons monthly.



The contract renewal comes with a monthly increase of \$1 for 2021. After 2021, the recycling cost to residents will increase by 7% each year over the five-year contract. By the end of 2025 the service charge to residents will be comparable to the rate charged to the City of Bismarck. Learn more at cityofmandan.com/recycle.





New & Expanding Mandan Businesses

NEW

- Crappy to Happy, 106 1/2 First Ave NE
- Fix it All, 2718 Memorial Hwy
- Lords-n-Ladies, 102 Fourth Ave NW

Renaissance Zone program renews & expands

The City Commission took steps Aug. 4 to renew Mandan's Renaissance Zone program and expand its boundaries. The program capitalizes on existing infrastructure. It incentivizes investment in existing buildings needing revitalization to retain and attract businesses and residents. The program is 15 years in length with an option to extend for five years.

This renewal updates Mandan's development plan including goals and eligibility factors. In accordance with state law and city population, Mandan will grow its current 28-block zone by nine blocks. There can be up to a three-block, non-contiguous area.

The new plan includes the following additions:

- 2 blocks on W Main St. from 8th Ave NW to 10th Ave NW (900-1000 blocks),
- 5 blocks on E 1st St. from 9th Ave NE to Mandan Ave (1000-1400 blocks), and
- 2 blocks along Memorial Highway (2300-2500 area).

Eligible blocks can include commercial and residential properties. Applicants meeting a minimum threshold for investment in building improvements and other requirements can receive up to a 100% five-year property tax exemption and a 100% five-year state income tax exemption. Application and approval is required prior to the start of improvements.

Find the updated plan with beefed up qualifications and new boundaries at cityofmandan.com/renaissance.

Proposed budget maintains current City levy

The City Commission preliminarily approved a 2021 budget proposal during its Aug. 4 meeting. The proposed budget would keep the city levy at 63 mills.



The average property valuation increase was nearly 3.4% for the typical house in Mandan in 2020. This slight increase, coupled with the mill levy, equates to \$27 for the year, excluding any special assessments on the property.

Mandan residents will also see a \$3 monthly increase for utility base charges, totaling \$36 for the year. A portion of that increase, \$1.95 per month, is for the city's contribution towards a new raw water intake.

The intake project will be cost-shared with the State

Water Commission and Marathon Mandan Refinery. There is a \$0.05 contractual increase with Armstrong Sanitation for residential garbage collection services, and a \$1 monthly increase for the curbside recycling service with Waste Management.

The City's budget, subject to final approval and as recommended by the budget and finance committee, totals \$33.7 million. The contribution from property tax revenue is \$5.2 million with the remainder covered through user fees, special assessments, sales tax revenue, funds received from other sources such as federal and state contributions, and existing fund balances.

City services only a portion of local property tax bill. City services currently account for about 24% of the total mill levy for Mandan property owners. The School District, Morton County and Park District services account for the remainder.

The City Commission's public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. For more information about the 2021 city budget visit cityofmandan.com/news. The preliminary budget documents are posted at cityofmandan.com/budget.

City approves changes to fireworks ordinance

The City Commission voted 4-1 on Aug. 18 to change the City’s ordinance regarding fireworks over the July 4 holiday. The new ordinance states that fireworks can be discharged from noon to 11:59 p.m. on July 3 and 4. Previously, the ordinance allowed the discharge of fireworks during certain times from July 2-5.

The approved changes also increased the fee for violations from \$75 to \$150.

In July, the Commission directed City staff to discuss potential changes to the fireworks ordinance based upon issues in 2020. The Police and Fire Departments provided a report regarding calls for service due to fireworks from 2016-2020. Commissioners also discussed calls and emails from citizens in regards to fireworks before making the change.



Fireworks are still permitted on New Year’s Eve from 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 to 1 a.m. on Jan. 1 each year. To view the ordinance, visit cityofmandan.com/code.

Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10



The National Fire Protection Association has announced “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4-10. Home cooking fires represent the leading cause of U.S. home fires with nearly half of all home fires involving cooking equipment. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mandan Fire Department will not host an open house this year, but reminds residents of these fire safety tips for the kitchen:

- Never leave anything that is cooking unattended;
- Keep anything that can catch fire at least 3 feet away from the stovetop; and
- Be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the oven or stovetop.

Stay tuned to the City of Mandan’s social media platforms for additional fire safety messages during Fire Prevention Week in October. For more information about Fire Prevention Week visit fpw.org.

Can signs be placed in the City right-of-way?

The City’s Code of Ordinances Section 18-3-5 covers the posting of handbills, posters and placards. These provisions include any signage placed within the right-of-way, or boulevard, and is relevant this time of year during elections. As a general rule of thumb, signs cannot be placed in the public right-of-way or on public property. Permission to place signage on private property must be obtained from the property owner.

A sign may be placed anywhere on an individual’s property, which typically ends where the sidewalk begins and excludes the area between the sidewalk and the street. However, signage cannot obstruct the vision of the traveling public at street corners.

The City does not actively seek out violations, however, if a complaint is received regarding signage, it will be investigated to determine if the sign is placed properly. If improperly placed, the property owner or person who placed the sign will be notified and asked to remove the sign.

If you believe a sign is improperly placed, call 667-3264 or visit cityofmandan.com/concern.

SMOKING FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Smoke outside
- Put cigarettes out all the way, every time.
- Put cigarettes out in an ashtray or bucket with sand.
- Be alert. Do not smoke after taking medicine that makes you tired.
- Never smoke around medical oxygen.
- Never smoke in bed.



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Second K-9 unit hits the streets

Congratulations to Mandan Police Officer Makayla Westgard and K-9 Medve (pronounced Med-vee, meaning "bear") on their recent graduation from Shallow Creek Kennels K-9 training. The duo's first day protecting the city was Aug. 12.

K-9 Medve is a German Shepherd and is trained in tracking, apprehension, evidence searching, building searching and narcotics detection.

The department's first K-9 unit, Officer Scott Warzecha and K-9 Kupper, began serving the community in August 2019. According to the police department's recently released annual report, Officer Warzecha and Kupper were involved in approximately 37 vehicle searches for narcotics seizing many drugs, paraphernalia and a firearm. The unit also searched numerous buildings and homes for suspects in the latter half of 2019. Over the last year, the first K-9 unit proved to be a great asset to the Police Department and community.

With this new addition, the department now has a K-9 unit available during every shift. To view the Police Department's 2019 annual report, visit mandanpd.com.



Officer Westgard & K-9 Medve

City Contacts

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Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling
Mike Braun
Joseph Camisa Jr.
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	667-3240
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

Property owners reminded to trim trees

City officials remind residents that City Ordinance Sec. 115-4-7 requires any tree which over-hangs a city street within 14 feet or a sidewalk within 10 feet, measured vertically, shall be trimmed by the property owner. During this time of year it's common for street trees to hang too low over the street or sidewalk causing problems for pedestrians, parcel delivery trucks, emergency vehicles, street sweepers, buses and eventually snow plows.

It is also the property owner's responsibility to trim boulevard trees in regard to vehicle or pedestrian clearance and sight problems with obstructing trees.

Please mow grass & control weeds

The City of Mandan reminds property owners, residents and caretakers of property within city limits that all noxious weeds and overgrown vegetation must be maintained under a 6-inch maximum height.

Failure to maintain control of grass and noxious weeds will result in the property being cut and/or sprayed by the City with the cost being added to the property owner's special assessments. Residents planning on spraying a property instead of cutting it must notify the code enforcement officer at 667-3264 or the property will be cut with the cost being added to the special assessments for the property. To report violations visit cityofmandan.com/concern.

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.