

CITY UPDATE

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Survey Results

This summer, the City conducted an online survey to get citizen insights on what should be priorities as we make long-term and mid-range goals for the city.

A quick synopsis:

- * Most feel the city should focus on developing industry and business, with developing additional residential housing as a secondary priority. Most would like the city to find ways to increase this development without adversely affecting property taxes.
- * There were many comments about enhancing or offering more recreational and community event amenities.

The City Council reviewed these preliminary results at its October meeting and will share more as the discussion moves forward. Thank you to all who participated. It is greatly appreciated and gave us valued insight for future priorities.



Planned improvements

Each year, the City Council tries to identify an area that is in great need for repair or improvement. The past few years, with the help of a generous donation from the Lions Club, the City had a priority of replacing the flooring at the Brownton Community Center. That project was completed this summer.

In 2025, the city hopes to renovate the existing tennis court behind the Brownton Area Civic Center into a multi-use area for tennis, pickleball and basketball. Our goals are to resurface, repaint lines for pickleball and tennis and replace the fencing and basketball hoop standards.

We hope this project will help us meet one of the community's desires to improve city amenities as expressed in the community survey.

2025 Budget, Levy

In September, the City Council set its 2025 preliminary budget and levy, proposing an 11.7 percent property tax increase for 2025.

Keep in mind, the City has to set its final budget and levy in December, which it will do after the Truth in Taxation hearing at its Dec. 3, 2024, meeting.

At this time, the City can lower its proposed levy but not raise it above the 11.7 percent increase it proposed in September.

An 11.7 percent levy increase is expected to raise an additional \$68,298 in revenue for the city.

The primary item driving the proposed increase is a desire to add a 3rd full-time officer to our police department. It is hoped that adding a third officer will ease scheduling and reduced the amount of “on-call” hours our officers are expected to provide which, in turn, should provide a quicker response time for emergencies. This will hopefully reduce the amount of on-call hours (the time an officer is not actively patrolling but is expected to respond to emergencies) from 12 hours a day to 3 to 4 hour per day.

The Council had a couple of workshop sessions to address the on-call time issue, and feel this is a better option for providing local law enforcement rather than contracting with the County.

REMINDERS:

Winter Snow Removal and Street Parking

Excerpt from Amended Ordinance #52- Section 7, Winter Parking to read as follows: No parking shall be allowed on any street from November 1 through March 31 between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. regardless of snow emergency. Any vehicle parked on the street during restricted hours and/or causing the grader to pull out and around, causing a return trip to clean the street, will be issued a “Snow Removal Parking Violation.” The Chief of Police or any regular peace officer shall have the authority to order any vehicle parked in violation of this ordinance to be towed if/as necessary. The Chief of Police or his or her designee shall have the discretion to allow vehicles to be parked on the street if notified prior to and if it is not a snow event. A snow event is any snowfall that the City deems “plow-able”. It is the responsibility of property owners to ensure that their sidewalk is free of snow and ice.

Worth Noting:

MN Statute 160.2715: Prohibits the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow or ice onto public roadways at any time.

Make Sure Your House Number Is Clearly Visible

When First Responders (Police, Fire, EMT’s) respond to a house call, it’s important they find the right place as quick as possible. Residents can help by ensuring house numbers are easily visible from the road at all times – day and night. Here are some tips to help us find your house when every minute counts:

- Ensure numbers are well-lit at night.
- Make sure numbers are large enough to be easily read from street, 4 inches minimum.
- Numbers should contrast the color of your siding.
- If your house isn’t clearly visible from the street due to trees or other obstructions, clearly post your house number on your mailbox or near the street.

Annual Licensing Due Jan. 1st

Ordinance #91-Requires the Licensing of Cats & Dogs by Jan. 1st every year. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required for licensing. All pets are \$5 if spayed or neutered pets and \$25 if they are not.

Pet tags for 2025 are now available at the City office, please bring copy of current rabies vaccination along with payment.

