



In the Know in St. Joseph



CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

November 2020

As a result of the significant increase in COVID-19 cases in the area, and in an effort to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our municipal workers and the community, the City of St. Joseph has closed public access to the Government Center through December 31, 2020.



So, what does this mean? Essential services will continue without interruption. City employees will be available by phone and email during the closure. Phones will continue to be answered by those working in the office. Calls will be forwarded to those working remotely. Emails will be received and replied to in a timely manner. Meeting rooms will not be available and no new shelter reservations will be taken through the end of the year. Please utilize the City website and outside drop box as much as possible during this time

NEW Budget Book!

The City of St. Joseph has just launched a budget book—an online tool for residents to access the City’s budget. View the budget book by visiting the city website www.cityofstjoseph.com and clicking Finance under the Department tab.

Park Development Round Up Program

Did you know you can round up your city utility bill to help develop City parks? Rounding your bill to the next whole dollar will put those additional funds into the Park Board fund and will be used to replace playground equipment in Klinefelter Park. To sign up for the Round Up Program, contact City Hall (320) 363-7201.

Truth in Taxation Hearing

The City Council will present the 2021 preliminary budget and projected property tax impact on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:00pm. The public hearing for the proposed 2021 fee schedule will be held at the same time. The preliminary levy was set in September. The final levy cannot be increased. The preliminary levy and tax rate are summarized below.

2021 Proposed Levy	Net Tax Capacity	Preliminary Levy	Preliminary Tax Rate
Urban Properties	\$4,529,636 (↑7.61%)	\$2,657,604 (↑0.93%)	58.6715% (↓3.9%)
Annexed Commercial	\$628,038 (0% change)	\$220,460 (↑23.11%)	35.1030% (↑6.6%)
Annexed Rural Residents	\$381,475 (↑5.17%)	\$79,812 (↓1.27%)	20.9219% (↓1.4%)

2020 Election Results

The City Council canvassed the 2020 General Election results on November 12, 2020. The declared winner of the mayoral race was Rick Schultz. For Council, Bob Loso and Kelly Beniek were declared the winners for the two seats. Elected officials will be sworn in at the City Council meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021.



Holiday Tree Collection

When: **January 7th & January 14th**

Limit of 1 tree per household. All trees must have decorations and stands removed. Place the tree on the ground next to the cart.

St. Joseph Winter Farmer’s Market

The market is held at the Resurrection Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall from 9:00 AM—1:00 PM on the following Saturdays:



November 28th	February 13th
December 19th	March 13th
January 16th	April 17th

Utility Bill Payments

Residents have several options to pay utility bills:

- Payment drop box at the Government Center
- Mail
- Direct ACH Payment
- Online, www.cityofstjoseph.com

Cash, check, money order, credit/debit card are accepted. Residents are responsible for convenience fees when paying by credit/debit card.

Residents of St. Joseph...

As Election season wraps up, I want to thank all the candidates for their effort in seeking to serve in the public eye. For some, it can be an uncomfortable experience and that is why I appreciate it so much. Knowing there is a line of individuals willing and able to take on public service is a testament to our community. Thanks to Carmie Mick, Mike Osterman and Paul Orvis. I'm hopeful we will see and hear those names again. I want to welcome back Bob Loso to the Council. A public servant for many years, Bob brings a wealth of historical knowledge to the Council. I welcome new councilor, Kelly Beniek. Kelly is a long-time resident who has witnessed the growth in our community. I look forward to working with her and gaining her perspective. Lastly, we will say good-bye to Troy Goracke. Troy served faithfully the last 4 years, taking on various roles and giving freely of opinions and views. I enjoyed working with Troy and wish him well.

Thank you, St. Joseph, for putting your trust in me for another term. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as Mayor of St. Joseph. My door is always open, my phone is always on and my email is always available. The Minneso-

ta Legislature passed the 2020 bonding bill. Governor Walz signed the bill into law on October 21st. The bonding bill package included \$4 Million towards the future Jacob Wetterling Recreation Center. This funding will be used for construction of a multi-generational community center which has been a hot topic in St. Joseph for decades. The center is slated to be built on a parcel of land adjacent to the St. Joseph Government Center. This investment will leverage the City's own dedicated funds and facilitate construction. I am grateful for all the support in our efforts to obtain this major capital investment here in St. Joseph.

The City has been working with the College of St. Benedict on pursuing the Intercultural Harmony Grant, which is awarded by the Musser Foundation in Little Falls. The proposal aims to create a year-long community team which will bring stakeholders of our area together to explore race and inclusion in St. Joseph. I look forward to working with CSB on this initiative.

As winter approaches, I encourage everyone to get outdoors as much as possible. I'm asking for your help in keeping paths clear for walking. If residents don't have to trudge through shin-high

drifts or navigate slick walkways, they'll be more likely to find time to walk and stay active. I also ask that you help keep your neighborhood clean by adopting a storm drain. The city does not yet have a formal adopt-a-drain program, but I encourage neighborhoods to commit to just 15 minutes twice a month to sweep up leaves and trash. It is one of the easiest methods to keep debris out of holding areas, lakes, streams and avoids spot flooding areas.

Lastly, many of you know why November 11th is important. Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for you, our veterans. To all veterans of all branches: Thank you for your sacrifice, your bravery, and the example you set for us all!

I am thankful for our community, our nation and that we are truly one nation. I am also thankful for our City Council members, City staff and our amazing community. It is a privilege to be your mayor and live in this great city. From my family to yours, I hope you have a wonderful and thankful Thanksgiving!

Mayor Rick Schultz

Snow Removal

Property owners are required to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall event. If the owner fails to do so, the city may remove the snow or ice and the owner will be charged for the service.

It is unlawful to blow snow into a street or alley.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant



When clearing your driveway of snow, please take the time to clear the snow around any fire hydrant on your property or in your vicinity.

Winter Parking Regulations

No parking is allowed on any City street from Nov. 1st to Apr. 1st during the hours of 2 AM and 7 AM. Any vehicle parked in violation of this ordinance is subject to a fine and immediate towing at the owner's expense.

Welcome St. Joseph's Newest Employee!
Community Development Director
Nate Keller

Planning Commission Vacancy

The City of St. Joseph is seeking a member for the St. Joseph Planning Commission. Applications are available at www.cityofstjoseph.com.

Attention Snow Birds

Are you planning on heading south for the winter? Effective January 2021, a resident that is absent from his/her residence for at least 30 consecutive days may



qualify to temporarily suspend garbage/recycling services. You can also request a house watch from the St. Joseph Police Department while you

are away. Call City Hall at 320-363-7201.