

Municipal Utility and City News



Fall/Winter 2021-2022

Jackson City Hall • 80 W. Ashley Street, Jackson, MN 56143 • Phone: 507/847-4410

This past summer was a busy one in Jackson!

Here is an update on this summer's projects and a few reminders for the upcoming winter season!

City Hours of Operation


City Hall: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Water, Sewer, Street, Electric, and Parks Departments:
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Economic Development Office: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Liquor Store: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Sat. (closed Sundays)

Website: www.cityofjacksonmn.com

Check us out on facebook 

*BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETINGS

City Council: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Utilities Commission: Last Monday at 4 p.m.

Park Board: 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: 2nd Monday at 5:15 p.m.

EDA: 2nd Tuesday at 12 noon

Airport Commission: Last Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the Airport

HRA: 3rd Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the High Rise Apartments

**All meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise noted.*

Special Meetings also held as needed.

▪ **New Faces:**

- Angie Burgy – part-time Liquor Store Clerk who began her duties on September 24th.
- Chris Burban – full-time Ambulance Director who began his duties on August 23rd.
- Kirsten Lorenz – full-time Assistant Ambulance Director who began her duties on August 1st.

▪ **Welcome Alderman Michael More from Ward I!** Appointed to the City Council on June 1st to fill the unexpired term of Nicole Hall.

▪ **Retirement** – Congrats to Sr. Water/Wastewater Operator Ron Bezdicek on his retirement on November 12th after nearly 29 years of service!

COVID 19 UPDATES

▪ All City buildings and facilities are open for regular operations. However, social distancing is encouraged. If you do not feel well please stay at home.

▪ **Senior Center:** The Center remains closed to congregating. Lutheran Social Services will make the determination on when they resume. Meals are available for delivery and take out. Drivers are needed for delivery. Contact the Center before 1 p.m. to sign up to help with

delivery 507-847-5884. The Senior Center is open to rentals for small gatherings. Contact City Hall for rental information at 507-847-4410.

▪ **Jackson County Library:** Is open for regular business. Call 507-847-4748 for additional information.

▪ **City Council COVID 19 Updates:**

- Late fees on delinquent utility bills have been suspended until April 30th.
- The “Cold Weather Rule” has been extended until April 30th. However, people still have to declare an inability to pay, make a minimum payment, and enter into a payment agreement to avoid disconnection.

▪ **City Council Meetings:** The City Council is meeting in person in the Council Chambers at City Hall. However, due to social distancing there is not a lot of room for the public. Therefore, the Council will continue having the meetings available to the public by “Zoom.” Watch the City Facebook page or call City Hall for the Zoom login information.

PROJECT UPDATES

▪ **Street, Utilities, and Parking Lot Improvement Projects**

Work on the project has been completed for the season. Contractors will be back in the coming weeks to do some cleanup work and reinstall the traffic signs. Next construction season the 2nd lift of asphalt will be put on North Highway and South St. The project consisted of the following:

- Reconstructing North Highway from Sayles Dr. to Logan Ave. and South St. from Dewey St. to Bailey Ave.
- New water main, replacement of some storm sewer, and sanitary sewer replacement from the main to the property line.
- Replacement of curb and gutter.
- Paving the Frost Ave. alley to better accommodate the splashpad.
- Paving the Library parking lot and alley behind the Senior Center Building.
- Repaving the Water Plant and City Hall parking lots.
- Sidewalk improvements along North Highway and extended to Sayles Dr.

▪ **Highway 71/Sherman St. Traffic Signal Replacement Project:**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) replaced the traffic signals at this intersection. The project also entailed making the adjacent sidewalk and ped-ramps ADA



complaint and adding “bump outs” on Highway 71 and Sherman St. There was a 50/50 cost share on this project between MDOT and the City.

▪ **Downtown Underground Electrical Conversion Project:**

This project consisted of converting the overhead electrical wires to underground in the downtown area. Crews are now in the process of cutting over the more than 70 businesses over to the new underground wires.

▪ **Sanitary Sewer Extension Project**

During 2016-2017 construction commenced on a project to extend the sanitary sewer system to hook up 26 properties with non-compliant septic systems. Through 2017 20 connections were made. However, work then was halted because the water level on the Des Moines River was too high to make the sanitary sewer crossing. The water level remained too high until the Fall of 2020 when crews were finally able to make the crossing. The last leg of the project was completed this summer with the remaining properties connected to the sewer.

▪ **AMI Water and Electric Metering Project**

The Electric Department has finished installing all but a few meters. These meters are located outside in most cases, thus, they do not need access to get inside your home or business. However, due to COVID-19 and backlogs in the supply chain for water meters and antennas the installation of water meters has been much slower than expected. Staff are anticipating being able to make significant progress on installation this winter. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Reminder: If your electric meter has already been changed out, but your water meter has not you still need to submit your water meter readings to City Hall.

▪ **Airport Runway Project**

For a number of years the City has been working on plans to reconstruct the runway. To come into compliance with FAA regulations the runway will need to be relocated approximately 240 ft. to the northeast and the existing runway will be converted into a taxiway. The planning phase has been completed and MNDOT and FAA have approved the new layout. The City has also acquired the necessary land and design work has begun. It is anticipated that the project will be bid later this winter or spring with construction to commence during the 2022 construction season and be completed by the end of 2023.

WINTER REMINDERS

▪ **Winter Parking.** If accumulating snow is falling or in the forecast, please move your car off of the street until the snow has stopped falling and the plows have plowed the street curb to curb. Doing so will help city crews do a better job plowing the streets, lessen the likelihood of accidents, and save you a \$50 parking ticket.

- **Emergency Alert System** – Get messages about snow emergencies delivered right to your fingertips by text or email with these easy steps.

1. Go to www.cityofjacksonmn.com
2. Click “here” under Emergency Alerts section.
3. If you have not signed up for Jackson County Emergency Alerts you will need to create an account. If you have already done so you can sign in.



4. Click “Groups” tab on the left side of screen and click “City of Jackson.”

▪ **Sidewalks.** Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from the abutting sidewalk within 24 hours of the accumulation of snow and ice. Failure to do so will result in city crews removing it at your expense. The minimum charge is \$60.

▪ **Snow Removal.** Please do not push snow off any property onto or across a city street, alley, park, or public right of way. It is against City ordinance and you will be ticketed.

▪ **Energy Star Rebates!** Have you done or are you thinking about any lighting improvements, appliances, or other projects for your home or business that may save you electricity? They may also save more than electricity. You may be eligible for a rebate from the City of Jackson. Contact City Hall at 507-847-4410 for more information.

▪ **Trail Snow Removal** – With over 9 miles of paved recreational trail within the City of Jackson it is not feasible to plow and maintain all of the trail segments. However, city crews will once again be plowing the Springfield Parkway trail from Highway 71 to Dewey St; the Dewey St. trail from Springfield Parkway to North Highway; and the North Highway sidewalk Highway 71 to the Jackson Medical Center. Plowing will be completed 2-3 days after the snowfall and all streets and alleys have been plowed.

▪ **Tree Trimming** – Winter is a great time of year to trim trees. Save yourself from getting a letter! City Ordinance requires a minimum of 14 feet of clearance above the street and 8 feet of clearance above the sidewalk to ensure adequate passage of city snow removal equipment and pedestrians.

▪ **Ambulance EMTs and EMRs Wanted!** Looking for a unique and meaningful way to serve your community? Part-Time and on-call (volunteer) Emergency Medical Technicians and Emergency Medical Responders are needed. Training provided and flexible scheduling available! Contact Ambulance Director Chris Burban at 507-847-5306 for more information.

▪ **CITY HALL CLOSED.** City Hall will be closed on the following days:

- December 23-24 – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holiday Observance
- December 31st – New Year’s Day Observance
- January 17th – Martin Luther King Day
- February 21st – Presidents’ Day

Utility bill payments can always be placed in the drop box outside City Hall or paid online at www.jacksonmn.com by credit card for a small fee.

Sign up for the convenience of ACH automatic utility bill payments at City Hall today!

**WISHING YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A SAFE WINTER SEASON!**