

Municipal Utility and City News



Summer/Fall 2022

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

This summer has been a busy one in Jackson!

Here is an update on this summer's projects and a few reminders for the rest of the warm weather season!

City Hours of Operation

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


Water, Sewer, Street, Electric, and Parks Departments:

7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Economic Development Office: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Liquor Store: 10:00 a.m.-9:00 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 4:00 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 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Special Meetings also held as needed.

WELCOME NEW FACES!

New City Council Member Jerry Palmer! Jerry Palmer was appointed on April 5th to fill the vacant Ward I seat created by the resignation of Councilman Chris Vee.

New/Contracted Employees: Tony Nitchals (Electric Supervisor), Trevor Neal (Water/Wastewater Maintenance), Shelley Pohlman (PT Economic Development Office Assistant); Renae Christian (PT Liquor Store Clerk); and Gavin Jacobsen, Ben Spaeth, and Chris Gumto (Seasonal Parks Department Staff)

PROJECT UPDATES

2020-21 Street, Utilities, and Parking Lot Improvements

- All work has been completed!
- Phase I of the project consisted of reconstructing North Highway from Logan Ave. to Sayles Dr; new watermain, sewer service lines to the right-of-way, and storm sewer; reconstruction of sidewalk on north side of street and adding a sidewalk connection that runs west of the Pines to Sayles Dr. This is a public sidewalk anyone can use.
- Phase II consisted of reconstructing 4th St. from Baily St. to South St. and South St. from Baily St. to Dewey St; new watermain, sewer service lines to the right-of-way.



- Paving the Frost Ave Alley near the splashpad and Library parking lot and senior center alley.
- Repaving the City Hall and Water Plant Parking lots.
- Construction costs were around \$4.8 million, about \$569,000 under budget, largely due to better soils than expected! These dollars will be applied to the 2022-23 Street and Utilities Improvement Projects (See more information below)

2022-23 Street and Utilities Improvements

- On June 21st the City Council approved the bid from Duinick Inc. (same contractor as the 2021 project). This project entails the reconstruction of Emily Street and Riverside Dr., including replacing the underground water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer. The project also includes the resurfacing of Northridge and Westridge Drives.
- Construction is expected to begin in September with the first lift of asphalt to be completed by the end of October. The final layer of bituminous paving will be done in 2023.

River Street Improvements

- River St. is a County Road, but has city utilities underneath it (just like South Highway)
- In 2023 the City will replace the underground water and sewer. The road will be left gravel over the winter and the County will repave the road in 2024.

Downtown Alley and Utilities Improvement

- On June 21st the City Council also approved a bid from Jensen Concrete and Trucking of Albert Lea, MN to repave the downtown alleys with concrete between Grant and Bailey Streets and Highway 71 and First Street and replacing some water and sewer infrastructure.
- As part of the project we will also be constructing a 100' x 200' concrete pad in Memorial Park to create a year round recreational facility for the ice rink, roller hockey in the warmer weather months, and relocate the skate park from the City Hall Parking lot.
- Construction is expected to begin in September with completion in 2023

Water Plant Media Filter Replacement

- Project consists of replacing the media filter to reduce the amount of manganese and ammonia and improve our water quality.
- Consumers should see a reduction in "toilet rings" and "film" in glasses and coffee cups
- Estimated cost is \$670,000.
- The project is expected to be bid this fall with construction in the winter and spring.

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. Crossing was finally made during the fall 2020. All work has finally been completed!

AMI Water and Electric Metering Project

The installation of electric meters is substantially complete. Water meter installation has been slow due to supply chain interruptions and shortages.

- Remember if your electric meter has already been changed out you still need to submit your water meter readings (meter inside your home or business) to City Hall until the water meter has been changed out.

Airport Runway Project

For several years the City has been working on plans to reconstruct the runway. To come into compliance with FAA regulations the runway needs to be relocated approximately 240 ft. to the northeast and the existing runway will be transformed into a taxiway. After an extensive planning and environmental review process the City is the recipient of a \$4.2 million Federal Grant and \$248,000 State Grant to reconstruct the runway and turn the existing runway into a parallel taxiway. Svoboda Excavating was awarded the bid and construction began in July. Work is expected to continue through 2024.

SUMMER/FALL REMINDERS

Online Bill Pay. You can now pay your utility bill and see your consumption going back a year on our new online bill pay portal at www.cityofjacksonmn.com. We also offer automatic payments. Of course, you are also still welcome to drop your payments off at City Hall or in the drop box out in the parking lot.

Auto Pay. Want an easier way to pay your bill? Sign up at City Hall to have your utility bill payment automatically withdrawn from your checking account.

Tall Grass. City Ordinance requires the length of grass to be mowed and maintained at height of no taller than 6 inches.

Grass Clippings. Please do not blow grass clippings out on the streets, alleys, or trails. Grass clippings can clog storm sewers, lead to flooding, and pollute our waterways with phosphorous. They can also create a slipping hazard for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists.

Greenwaste Site. Residents are welcome to bring any greenwaste such as grass clippings and tree branches to the City's dump site at the end of Riverside Drive west of Highway 71. No household garbage please! Concrete may be dumped for a small fee. Contact City Hall for more information.

Sidewalks. Did you know that you are responsible for maintaining your sidewalk and may be liable if someone trips and falls? Fortunately, financial assistance is available for replacement of cracked/broken sidewalks. Contact City Hall to see if you are eligible for the City's sidewalk replacement assistance program. You may be eligible for up to \$400 of assistance or \$800 for a corner lot.

Tree Trimming. Residents are responsible for trimming their trees and bushes so that they do not obstruct streets,

alleys, and sidewalks. Minimum clearance for trees is 14 ft. above the street and 8 ft. above the sidewalk.

Recreational Vehicles. Boats, campers, trailers, and the like are not to be parked on any street for more than 24 hours. Violators will be ticketed.

Golf Carts and ATVs- Golf carts and ATVs are not allowed to be driven on city streets without a valid permit. Permits may be obtained at City Hall. Permits are good for five years.

Building Permits. Doing a construction project this summer? Be sure to call City Hall to see if you need a building permit.

Tree Planting Permits. Going to plant a tree? Please get a tree planting permit to ensure it will not interfere with a water, sewer, or electric line. Gopher One calls are also required!

GOPHER ONE CALL. If you are doing any digging regardless of whether it is a large project like building a house or as small as planting a tree you need to call Gopher One (8-1-1) a minimum of 48 hours before you plan to dig to make sure you do not accidentally hit any utility lines. It's the law!

Friendly Reminders to Dog and Cat Owners. It is unlawful for any person who is the owner, or other person in possession of a dog or cat to permit such animal to run or walk at large; such dog or cat shall not be deemed to be running at large if it is on a leash or otherwise under the control of an accompanying person. **Annual licenses** are \$10.00 for each dog and cat. Licenses are available at City Hall.

- **Pet Walking:** When walking your pet, please respect others' property and clean up any droppings from your pet. Always remember to be courteous of your neighbors and fellow trail users.

SPEEDING. The speed limit on all city streets is 30 mph unless otherwise posted and 10 mph in alleys. Drive carefully and remember to stop at all "stop" signs, yield at all "yield" signs, and watch for pedestrians. Do not talk on your cell phone or text while driving. Always be on the lookout for children playing and pedestrians.

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

- Monday, September 6th- Labor Day
- Monday, October 10th- Columbus Day

ENERGY STAR REBATES! Rebates are available for LED lighting retrofits and Energy Star Rated water heaters, heat pumps, air conditioners, clothes washers, and electric vehicle charging stations! Contact City Hall or visit www.cityofjacksonmn.com for more information.

HOUSE NUMBERS. Please make sure that you have numbers on your house and that they are visible from the street so that emergency personnel, the postal service, and other delivery companies can find your house. You don't want them going to the wrong house or someone else getting your package!

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM: Sign up for instant alerts from the City of Jackson and emergency alerts for events such as severe thunderstorms, flash floods, blizzards and winter storms, and other severe weather events by visiting <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/> and sign up for the City of Jackson group.

***WISHING YOU A SAFE
AND WONDERFUL FALL SEASON!***

