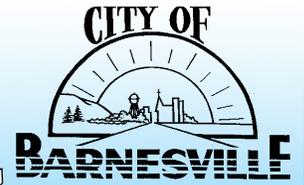


KEEPING YOU CONNECTED



A Monthly Newsletter for our Utility Customers • 24/7 www.barnesvillemn.com • December 2015

NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

At the January 11, 2016 City Council meeting, two new Council members will take their Oath of office. In Ward 2, **Dawn Stuvland** will replace Richard Sylvester and in Ward 3, **Brad Field** will replace Cathy Enstad. We thank **Richard** and **Cathy** for their service to the community.

Contact information for City Council members is included on the back of the 2016 Calendar that is enclosed in this utility bill mailing.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

City Hall: CLOSED Friday, January 1 and

Monday, Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King's Birthday

Liquor Store: OPEN Thurs. Dec. 31, 10 am -10 pm
CLOSED Friday, January 1

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The City has scheduled two dates to pick-up Christmas trees - **Friday, January 8 and Friday, January 22**. Residents should leave their trees in the same area as their garbage containers. No extra stickers or tags are needed.



UTILITY RATE CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2016; some of the City of Barnesville utility rates are changing:

- Sewer volume charges increase to \$5.07
- Water usage charge increase to \$2.77
- Water, Sewer, Stormwater replacement funds each increase to \$2.77 month.

These changes will be reflected on the utility bills which residents receive in February.

The monthly charge for garbage service will increase to \$16.07 per month on the utility bill that you receive the end of January.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Mayor Gene Prim, Barnesville City Council and all the City of Barnesville employees wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season!

STAY OFF BLUE EAGLE LAKE!

Residents are reminded that the ice on Blue Eagle Lake is very thin due to aerators running all winter. While you can ice fish on the lake, for your own safety, look for the areas where thin ice signs are posted and avoid those spots.

COLD WEATHER IS OUR ENEMY...

With January just around the corner, the really cold weather will soon be here. When it gets cold people tend to turn up the heat in their houses, in addition to regular electric use. When everyone in town does this, the community's demand for power can reach a point that the City's wholesale cost for electricity increases dramatically. If this happens, we are forced to raise everyone's rates.

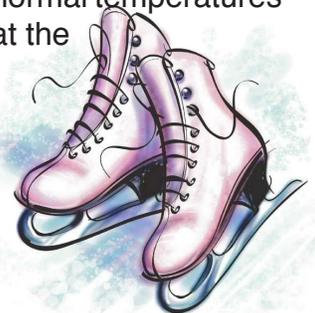
EVERYONE can help keep electric costs down by reducing electric consumption between 7-10 am and 4-9 pm. When possible, wash and dry clothes, and run the dishwasher during the day or when you go to bed. Working together will save us all money!

WE NEED TO READ YOUR METER!

As the winter progresses and the snow continues to pile up, City residents are asked to make sure a pathway is clear to all meters. If the meter readers are unable to read your meters, your bills will be estimated in the winter months.

ICE SKATING RINK

Based on the warmer than normal temperatures in December it is expected that the Ice Skating Rink will not open until some time in January. Check the City of Barnesville Facebook page and website for updates on the opening date for the rink.



BARNESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting • November 9, 2015

This is a summary of the minutes. The complete minutes are available online at www.barnesvillemn.com or at City Hall.

Mayor Gene Prim called this regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Council members Jason Rick, Betty Strom, Don Goedtke, Larry Davis, Jr., Richard Sylvester, and Cathy Enstad

11-09-15-01 Motion Davis, second Strom to approve the agenda, with the addition to add the engagement letter from CliftonLarson Allen for the 2015 audit. Motion carried.

11-09-15-02 Motion Davis, second Enstad to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

11-09-15-03 Motion Rick, second Goedtke to open the public hearing for the property maintenance assessments at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried.

11-09-15-04 Motion Rick, second Strom to close the public hearing for the property maintenance assessments at 7:16 p.m. Carried.

11-09-15-05 Motion Rick, second Sylvester to grant the Tobias Milligan property an extension of December 14, 2015 to pay the property taxes in full, and a plan to complete the property violations. Motion carried.

11-09-15-06 Motion Sylvester, second Davis to withdraw the Daniel & Nickita Bartelson property from the special assessment role. Motion carried.

11-09-15-07 Motion Davis, second Sylvester to approve the special assessment role shown below, and to remove the assessments for the Richard Solom estate property. Motion carried.

507450060	Brian Glynn	\$75	Mowing
503500220	Bryan & Deanna Swenson	\$150	Mowing
505751670	Mark & Marcia Jodock	\$375	Mowing
505753240	JM Property Development	\$75	Mowing

11-09-15-08 Motion Sylvester, second Enstad to proceed with the Small Cities Development Program preliminary proposal to DEED to rehabilitate commercial buildings and owner occupied homes in Barnesville. Motion carried.

11-09-15-09 Motion Enstad, second Strom to proceed with a ramp at 310 Front Street South. Council member Sylvester questioned where this ramp was going to be located. EDA Director Karen Lauer stated that this ramp is what Clay County recommended and the

County has approved the proposed ramp. Council member Davis stated that the County has looked at the proposed ramp and has approved it. Voted aye: Rick, Goedtke, Strom, Davis, and Enstad. Voted nay: Sylvester. Motion carried.

11-09-15-10 Motion Davis, second Enstad to approve the liquor license request from the Purple Goose. Mr. Davis and Mrs. Enstad amended their motion to pro-rate the fee for 2015 in the amount of \$100.00, pending state approval. Motion carried.

11-09-15-11 Motion by Mr. Davis and second by Mr. Rick to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 2015-13, an Ordinance amending Chapter 8-01, Sec. 2-0106 of the Municipal Code regarding refuse collection fees. Motion carried.

11-09-15-12 Motion Strom, second Sylvester to approve the 4th Stop sign at 2nd Ave SE, and 13th Street SE intersection. Davis suggested a blinking light on the sign. Motion carried.

11-09-15-13 Motion by Mrs. Strom and second by Mr. Rick to approve the yearly maintenance costs of a proposed flow through splash pad at McGrath Park. Motion carried.

11-09-15-14 Motion Rick, second Strom to approve the Development Agreement for the Townhome project between the Barnesville EDA and Jared Peterson and Philip Rogers to construct a 5-unit townhome project on the EDA owned lot just north of St. James Church. Motion carried.

11-09-15-15 Motion Sylvester, second Rick to approve to contract with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN for the health insurance coverage for employees for 2016. Motion carried.

11-09-15-16 Motion Sylvester, second Davis to proceed with the proposal from Dakota Worldwide to evaluate the market for a new liquor store. Motion carried.

11-09-15-17 Motion Davis, second Rick to approve the 2015 election results. Motion carried.

11-09-15-18 Motion Rick, second Goedtke to approve the a resolution approving the 2015 City Election results. Voted aye: Rick, Goedtke, Strom, Davis, Sylvester and Enstad. Voted nay: none. Motion carried.

11-09-15-19 Motion Enstad, second Strom to approve the Arvig bid in the amount of \$102,940.00 to takedown the Telephone and Cable TV copper. Motion carried.

11-09-15-20 Motion Sylvester, second Davis to approve the engagement letter from CliftonLarsonAllen. Motion carried. Mayor Prim adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY INSIGHTS with Guy Swenson, City of Barnesville TEC Manager

How do I protect my kids online?

The internet is a treasure trove of information; but it can also be one of the most dangerous places for children. Keeping your kids safe requires monitoring to ensure the wrong people and the wrong information doesn't harm your child.

Teaching your children how to value their privacy is the first step in teaching them how to practice safe computing habits. Privacy lowers the risk of potential threats and restricts the information strangers have about us. Explain why privacy is important and demonstrate why your child should keep as many details as possible private when online.

Here are a few more tips to keep your kids safe while they use the Internet:

- **Teach Responsibility**
Explain the internet and how it should be used.
- **Place Restrictions**
There are certain websites your child shouldn't explore. Careful supervision will ensure they stay away from these dangerous places.
- **Use Parental Control Software**
Use software to place a parental lock on specific websites based on keywords or the site name.
- **Check Your Child's History**
You can eliminate potential dangers by knowing your child's browsing history, social media and online chat activity.

Following these guidelines will help create a safe and fun atmosphere for your children online.

WE NOW OFFER CONVENIENT ONLINE BILL PAY Go to www.barnesvillemn.com