



A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF TWO HARBORS, MN

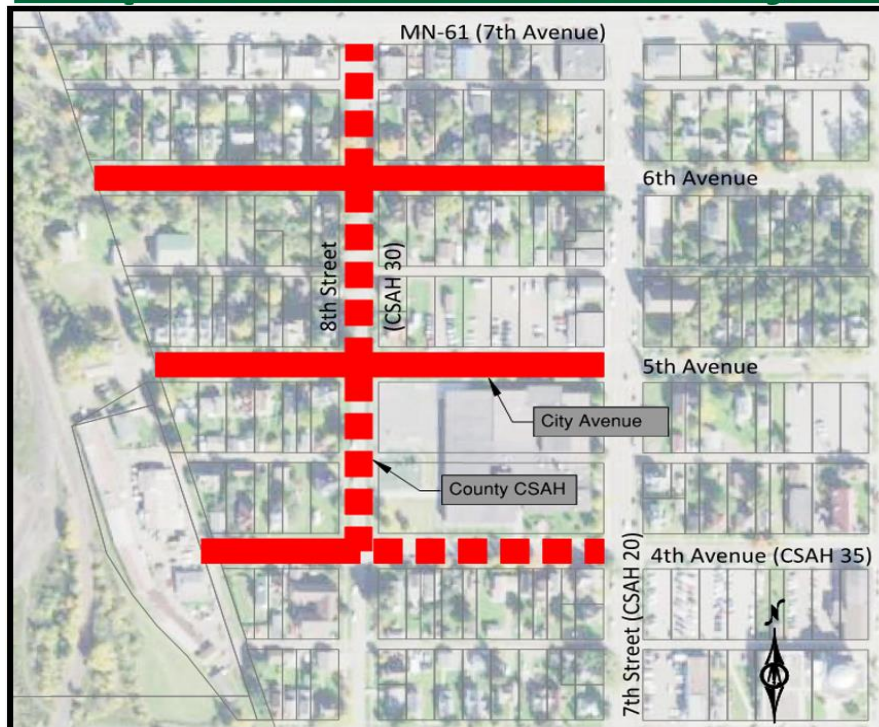
VOLUME 11, NO. 1, FEBRUARY 2021

2021-2022 Street Project

In fall 2017 Lake County preliminarily identified a project to reconstruct 8th Street from 4th Avenue to 7th Avenue in the year 2021. As the concept developed, the County was interested in adding reconstruction of 4th Avenue from 8th Street to 7th Street to their project. The proposed project area would encompass a notable amount of aged City sewer and water infrastructure in need of replacement. During that process, the City recognized the proposed County project along 8th Street presented an opportunity for a partnership between the City and County. Given the amount of street work proposed by the County, and the City utility work that would go along with that, the project could be used as a catalyst for infrastructure improvement in the entire neighborhood. The City and County had initial discussions and agreed the idea of a neighborhood project had merit. In 2019 preliminary planning for the potential combined City-County project began. The segments included in the proposed project are listed below and shown on the attached map:

- 4th Avenue, 5th Avenue, and 6th Avenue from 7th Street to their west end.
- 8th Street from 4th Avenue to 7th Avenue.

Proposed 2021-2022 Project



In early 2020 the City Council authorized a Feasibility Report for the potential project. The report was prepared to address three primary questions for the project: 1) What is proposed to be done; 2) What will it cost; and 3) How will it be financed. The Feasibility Report was completed and a public hearing on the report findings was held August 31, 2020. Copies of both the Feasibility Report and public hearing presentation are available on the City website.

Following the public hearing on August 31, 2020, the City Council authorized final design of plans for the project. The plans are just about complete and have been submitted to the State Department of Transportation for review. Based on the current status, and anticipating the project continues to move forward, an outline of the estimated project schedule is:

- January 2021 MnDOT approves plans.
- February 2021 City Council and County Board approve plans.
- March 2021 Advertising in the construction marketplace.
- April 2021 Receive contractor bids, award construction contract.
- May 2021 Neighborhood meeting with public.
- May/June 2021 Start construction.
- August 2021 Complete work on streets adjacent to Minnehaha School.
- October 2021 Complete work on 8th Street (County road).
- Summer 2022 Complete any remaining work on City Avenues.

As noted in the schedule, if the project proceeds to construction, a public Neighborhood Meeting would be held before the start of work to review the latest schedule information along with items such as street access during construction, and other logistical items such as mail delivery, trash service, etc. A notice for the Neighborhood Meeting would be sent to all properties in the project area, and the notice would also be posted by the City. Anyone interested would be welcome to attend the meeting.

[illegible]

EXISTING

West Side EXISTING 8TH ST TYPICAL East Side

Looking North

PROPOSED

PROPOSED TYPICAL - BETWEEN 5TH AVE AND 7TH AVE

Looking North

Like us on Facebook!

Wastewater Treatment Facility Bonding Bill

In October of 2020, the City of Two Harbors received some great news. The State passed the long-awaited bonding bill which awarded our town approximately 15 million dollars to upgrade its aging wastewater treatment facility.

Realizing that the main treatment processes in the plant were 50-65 years old the city started a facility plan in 2017. The purpose of a facility plan is to look at all possible options for future treatment. Some of these included pumping to WLSSD, moving the plant entirely away from the downtown waterfront, rehabilitation of the existing facility, and other newer treatment methods. Using projections and cost estimates staff, administration, and council were able to determine the scope of the project: a new extended aeration facility.

By choosing extended aeration this will allow us to retain parts of the plant which still have lots of usable life in them and replace the oldest portions with one new treatment process. We also will be upgrading our bio-solids handling which will give us a year of storage (as opposed to currently having a week) and a better product to land apply. Other upgrades will include HVAC systems, a chlorine contact tank, new fencing, new clarifiers, new pumps, a garage, laboratory, and office building, amongst many other numerous items.

Groundbreaking is expected to take place around June 1st, 2021 and last 42 months until fall of 2024. Questions on the project can be directed to Luke Heikkila, Supt. Of Water and Wastewater Treatment at 218-834-8813.



PET WASTE ALONG OUR TRAILS

It's that time of year again when pet waste collects along our beautiful North Shore trails. Pet waste that accumulates during the winter will be washed into surface waters when the snow melts. Apart from being unpleasant to look at and no fun to step in, pet waste contributes to E. coli contamination of our lakes and streams. E. coli is a bacteria found in the digestive tracts of warm-blooded animals, and it can cause illness in humans. Both Agate Bay and Burlington Bay have had elevated levels of E. coli in the past, which has sometimes led to beach closures. They are considered impaired due to consistent elevated E.coli levels.

There are some simple ways you can keep your pet's waste out of our waters. Lake County SWCD and the city of Two Harbors have teamed up to install pet waste stations along frequently used trails throughout the city. Each station is equipped with plastic baggies which you can use to collect your pet's waste, as well as a garbage can to dispose of it. You can also stop by the Lake County SWCD office at 408 First Avenue, Two Harbors for a free doggie bag key chain, which holds a roll of baggies and can be attached to your pet's leash so it's always with you when you need it. Call ahead, as COVID-19 has affected our office hours: (218) 834-8370. It can be cold and uncomfortable to pick up pet waste, but a few moments of effort can help keep our trails beautiful and our waterways clean.

Two Harbors Library a STAR LIBRARY

The Library wants to give a big THANK YOU to all our readers and supporters in the community! With your help, we have been ranked a STAR LIBRARY by The Library Journal in their December 2020 index!

Each year, The Library Journal spotlights the best public libraries in the country. There are a lot of libraries out there, and those with small budgets can't compete fairly against those with large budgets, so libraries are divided into different categories based on their budget size. From there, they compare the libraries in each budget category using these statistics:

- Physical Circulation
- Electronic Materials Circulation
- Library Visits
- Program Attendance
- Computer Use
- Wi-Fi Use
- Database Use

For the 2020 report, The Library Journal used statistics from 2018, and 5,608 public libraries nationwide qualified to be included. The Two Harbors Public Library is in the \$200,000 - \$399,999 budget category; we were one of 915 libraries competing in that range, so plenty of competition. The top 30 libraries in each category are awarded stars, and Two Harbors was awarded a four-star designation, ranking 16th in the nation!

Only two other libraries in the state of Minnesota earned stars this year. They were Ely Public Library, which earned 5th place in the same budget category as Two Harbors, and Ramsey County Library, which earned 21st place in the \$10,000,000 - \$29,999,999 budget category.

Thank you again for helping make the Two Harbors Public Library such a great place, and we look forward to serving you in the future!



Winter Reminders

Snow Removal and Sidewalks-Property owners are reminded that City Code requires property owners to see that all snow and ice is cleared from public sidewalks abutting their property within twelve hours after each snow or ice event has ceased. It is also important to note that it is unlawful to remove snow or ice from private property and place it on any public roadway or sidewalk.

Fire Hydrants-The Fire Department asks those with property near fire hydrants to clear a path to the hydrant after each snowfall. This allows firefighters to quick access to hydrants in case of an emergency.

Winter Parking-Off-Street parking begins November 1 and remains in effect through April 30. During this time it is unlawful to park or leave any vehicle on any street between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. If snow has fallen, the prohibited hours are from 2 a.m. until such time as snow plowing curb-to-curb has been completed on such street unless otherwise directed by resolution of council. It is unlawful to park a vehicle on any boulevard which has been curbed.

CITY TO RECEIVE \$19M IN GRANTS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Two Harbors owns and operates its water and wastewater systems. As a result, the City is responsible for producing, treating, and distributing water, and also collecting, treating, and disposing of wastewater. The systems are operated under permits from the State of Minnesota. The City has treatment plants for both the water system and the wastewater system. Both plants are aging and in need of improvements and upgrades.

For the past several years the City has been working to position itself and pursue funding for work on the treatment plants. The hard work and planning paid off, as in late 2020 the City learned it would receive \$19 Million in grant funds for utility improvements! \$15 Million was awarded for the wastewater treatment plant, and \$4 Million for the water system!

The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was first constructed in the 1950s, and many of the core components from that era are still in service. Notable additions or modifications to the WWTP were made in the 1970s and 1990s. The WWTP is located on a small, challenging site in the southeast corner of the City near the lighthouse. Following treatment at the WWTP, clean water is discharged to Lake Superior.

Several alternatives for the WWTP were investigated, including eliminating the plant and connecting the City to the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD). In the end, an alternate was selected that would replace/rebuild most of the WWTP components from the 1950s and 1970s, while preserving and incorporating most components from the 1990s or later. The alternative selected was the most economical and will have the ability to be expanded in the future if required by the State permit.

Plans for the WWTP improvements are almost complete. The project is anticipated to break ground in summer 2021. Work is expected to take over 3 year, with completion in fall 2024. Part of the challenge is the WWTP must remain in service during the construction.

Most of the water treatment plant (WTP) also dates from the 1950s and 1970s. The improvements needed at the WTP include replacement of one of the primary tanks, along with some building updates. The existing tank was built in 1956 and was discovered to be leaking in 2015. The tank also has some operational restrictions that will be eliminated by replacement with a new tank.

The grant money for the water system will also fund replacement of two pressure reducing stations. Due to the topography, the water system in Two Harbors has several pressure zones. Stations are needed between zones to regulate the pressure so the zones can be connected. Two of these stations are located along 15th Street – one at Hidden Springs Lane, and one at Omtvedt Drive. These stations are called Homewood Pressure Reducing Stations No. 2 and 3. Station No. 3 developed a leak under the building that the City has temporarily fixed. Both stations were built in 1980 and are in need of replacement.

The plans for the WTP and pressure stations will be finalized in 2021, and the bulk of construction is expected to occur in 2022.



**CITY OF TWO HARBORS
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

| <u>GROUP MEETING</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>MEETING PLACE</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| February 2021 | | | |
| Library Board | 2 | 5:00 PM | TBD |
| Planning Commission | 2 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Committee of the Whole/Agenda | 8 | 5:00 PM | TBD |
| City Council Regular Meeting | 8 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| HRA | 9 | 3:30 PM | TBD |
| Recreation Board | 10 | 6:45 PM | TBD |
| Edna G. Meeting | 17 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Trees & Trails Commission | 18 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Committee of the Whole/Agenda | 22 | 5:00 PM | TBD |
| City Council Regular Meeting | 22 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Airport Commission | 24 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Public Arts Commission | 25 | 5:00 PM | TBD |
| March 2021 | | | |
| Library Board | 2 | 5:00 PM | TBD |
| Planning Commission | 2 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Committee of the Whole/Agenda | 8 | 5:00 PM | TBD |
| City Council Regular Meeting | 8 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| HRA | 9 | 3:30 PM | TBD |
| Recreation Board | 10 | 6:45 PM | TBD |
| Edna G. Meeting | 17 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Trees & Trails Commission | 18 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Committee of the Whole/Agenda | 22 | 5:00 PM | TBD |
| City Council Regular Meeting | 22 | 6:00 PM | TBD |
| Public Arts Commission | 25 | 5:00 PM | TBD |

This listing represents the meetings of the City committees and commissions which are scheduled on a regular basis. It does not include committees and commissions that do not meet at the same date and time each month or special meetings. The official listing of all City meetings is posted at the entrance to the Council Chambers at City Hall. A calendar of meetings is also posted online at: twoharborsmn.gov

Council President Ben Redden



Congratulations to the newly elected Council President, Ben Redden! Ben has been a City Councilor for Ward 2 for 3 years. Ben enjoys hunting, fishing, ATV's and spending time with his family.

Council Vice President Robin Glaser



Congratulations to Vice President, Robin Glaser! Robin has been a Councilor At-Large variably since 1993. Robin was the first woman Mayor for the City of Two Harbors from 2000-2008. In her spare time, Robin enjoys spending time with her grand children and spending time at the cabin in the summer.

2021 Council Committee Appointments

Mayor-Swanson
Council President-Redden
Vice President-Glaser

Public Works Committee-Redden, Rennwald, Swanson

Public Utilities Committee-Rennwald, Redden, Swanson

Finance Committee-Erickson, Redden, Woodruff

Public Affairs-Swanson, Passe, Glaser

Public Safety-Woodruff, Rennwald, Passe

Airport-Rennwald

Cable TV-Committee of the Whole

Chamber Representative-Swanson

CIP-Committee of the Whole

Edna G-Woodruff

HRA-Glaser

Library-Rennwald

North Shore Management Board-Passe

Personnel-Redden, Glaser, Swanson

Planning-Glaser

Recreation-Erickson

Public Arts-Swanson

THEDA-Swanson

Trees & Trails-Passe

Waterfront Committee-Committee of the Whole

Waterfront Task Force-Woodruff, Passe, Swanson

CITY SCENE VOLUME 11. No. 1

522 1st Ave
Two Harbors, MN 55616



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City of Two Harbors Conservation Program

Look for the City of Two Harbors Conservation Program flier in your April Utility Bill. The program offers many new ways to help you save energy and money on your utility bills! If you have questions or would like more information, contact Blake, Electrical Superintendent, at 218-834-9922.

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines
marked AND helps protect you from injury
and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident:

**Always Call 811
Before you Dig**

A Safety Reminder from
Two Harbors Public Utilities