

# City of Hawley Newsletter April 2020

## City of Hawley response to coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Hawley City Council and City of Hawley Staff are committed to serving you, our residents and customers, through any difficult time. As federal and state entities release public health recommendations to prevent the spread of coronavirus, this dedication to service will not change.

Our staff in the office and in the field are implementing a multifold response plan that includes the following precautions: Social distancing practices; Employee education about the virus; Frequent hand-washing, sanitizing and surface cleaning; & Staying home when ill.

Many of our functions (Electricity, Natural Gas, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Police Protection, etc.) are critical and must operate safely 24/7. We will remain vigilant in monitoring the situation and keeping our workplaces safe and functional so that you can do the same at your homes and businesses. The Council will revisit our safety measures as needed and will post changes as they occur.

The City Council under the authority given by Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29, declared that a local emergency exists within the City of Hawley, effective March 19, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12, and further proclaims that such emergency constitutes a declared emergency pursuant to Minn.Stat. §12.29. They made a determination that in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and we may use Electronic/Telephonic means to hold upcoming meetings. We will have more information on the City Website, Facebook Page and you can call City Hall the day of the meeting to get the details so the public can call or log in/monitor the meeting remotely.

► Hawley City Hall lobby is closed. The State MV and DNR systems are currently shut down (effective 3-27-20) —we will reopen when they reopen. We are able to assist our City & Utility customers through our walk-up window in the main entryway. We have a drop box for utility payments available in the main entrance and the option to view and pay your utility bills on-line from a link on our website: [www.hawley.govoffice.com](http://www.hawley.govoffice.com) Feel free to call City Hall during business hours as we are staffed and can assist you over the phone at (218)483-3331.

► Hawley Liquors hours are changed to: Open: Monday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Closed on Sundays. To keep social distancing, 10 customers in the store at a time please. Additional cleaning with bleach is being done.

► Community Center is closed. ► Recycling Center is closed.

► Garbage Changes via Fuchs Sanitation – Please bag all garbage to protect their workers (no loose garbage.) They will not be picking up any large fabric items (couches, chairs, mattresses, box springs, etc.) at this time.

► The 2 Public Informational Meetings scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> regarding Safe Routes to School and Phase 3 have been postponed. The Council has directed that information will be distributed and available to the public on these projects. We will be direct mailing information packets to those in the proposed project areas, and posting information on our website soon. Comment sheets will be provided to allow public input and comments to be sent in to the Council.

► The City posts our meetings on the City website and we live broadcast our regular Council meetings on the local Arvig cable channel 14. Scheduled for April 6 & 20 at 5:30 p.m. These meetings may also use Electronic/Telephonic means (please see info above.)

► The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 will be held using “GoToMeeting” Electronic/Telephonic means (please see info on back of this newsletter.)

► Hawley Area Fire District April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting postponed to May 13<sup>th</sup>.

► Any non-essential City meetings will be postponed at this time.

If you are sick please do not come into any City buildings & stay home.

**Please stay calm and informed.** The following websites have official Federal and State information and suggestions to keep you and your family safe.

[www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

[www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)

## Business Resources

West Central Initiative <https://www.wcif.org/covid-19-resources/covid-19-resources.html>

State of MN Resources <https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/covid/employers/>

Federal Resources <https://americassbdc.org/coronavirus-information/>



City Hall Walk-Up Window

- **Hawley City Hall**  
Walk-up Window Open  
218-483-3331  
305 6th Street  
Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
[www.hawley.govoffice.com](http://www.hawley.govoffice.com)  
[info@ci.hawley.mn.us](mailto:info@ci.hawley.mn.us)
- **Hawley Deputy Registrar**  
Currently Closed  
Motor Vehicle Licenses  
DNR Licenses  
*Sorry - No Drivers' License Work*
- City Council Meetings  
April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
(broadcast live on Arvig Channel 14 at 5:30 p.m.)
- Board of Appeal & Equalization Public Hearing Apr 20<sup>th</sup> 4:30
- **Recycling Center** CLOSED
- Garbage Pick-up  
April - no changes
- Utility Emergency - After Hours # 701-238-7657
- **Community Center** CLOSED
- Curbside Grass Pick-up  
Scheduled for: April 30 & May 4, 7, & 11
- Spring Clean Up Day(s) are Scheduled for: May 14 or 18  
Details in May Newsletter

## Call Before You Dig it's the law!

Contact GSOC by calling:

651-454-0002 or

1-800-252-1166 or 811

## UTILITY BUDGET BILLING

*Utility customers that have a large difference in their utility bills from summer to winter may benefit from “averaging” their bills with Budget Billing. If you are interested in being on the budget billing program:*

*\*Sign up by contacting City Hall, and \*pay your utility bill in full by May 10<sup>th</sup>. The new Budget Billing Cycle starts with the June 1<sup>st</sup> billing.*

*If you are already on budget billing you do not need to sign up again.*



## **Board of Equalization Public Hearing Monday, April 20 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall**

### **Property Tax Market Valuation Information:**

The purpose of the Board of Appeal and Equalization is to provide a fair and objective forum for property owners to appeal their valuation or classification. The local board often serves as the first formal step in the appeals process for taxpayers. One of the most important duties placed by law upon the governing body of a City is to serve as the Board of Appeal And Equalization. Effective actions taken by the board may potentially make a direct contribution to attaining assessment equality. The goal of the Board of Appeal and Equalization should be to attempt to address property owners' issues efficiently, fairly and objectively. Always keep in mind that any changes made by the board must be substantiated by facts. Any value reductions must be justified because they have the effect of shifting the tax burden to other property in the jurisdiction. Further, any changes made by the board must meet statutory guidelines.

The County Assessor notifies taxpayers of their values and classifications each year by mail at least 10 days prior to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. At this point, the property owner can appeal the EMV and/or classification if he/she feels that the property is: ●classified improperly; ●valued at an amount higher than they could sell the property for; and/or ●valued at a level different from similar properties in the area.

The property owner should first contact the assessor's office to discuss questions or concerns. Issues often can be resolved at this level. If questions or concerns are not resolved after talking with the assessor, formal appeal options are available:

- Property owners may appeal to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization;
- If the property owner is not satisfied with the local board's decision he/she may then appeal to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization; and/or
- The property owner may appeal to Tax Court.

**NOTE** the Hawley City Council has declared a local emergency and made a determination that in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 health pandemic. We will use Electronic/Telephonic means to hold the Board of Equalization Public Hearing. We will have more information on the "GoToMeeting" procedure on our City Website, Facebook Page and you can call City Hall the day of the meeting to get the details so you can call or log in/monitor the meeting remotely.

**Property owners are encouraged to participate remotely for our Board of Equalization meeting being held April 20 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.**

## **Grow Hawley**

The Hawley City Council has made it a priority to grow the City of Hawley. New businesses and new housing within the City limits benefit all City property owners. Together these property owners fund the City services we all enjoy through property taxes and utility charges for services. The Council made it City Policy to **not extend city services outside the city limits.** City services include Municipal water, sewer, natural gas, electric, garbage, and storm sewer.

### **CITY OF HAWLEY, COUNTY OF CLAY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING on APPROVAL OF PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the City of Hawley, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., at the Hawley City Hall, located at 305 Sixth Street, in the City of Hawley, Minnesota, relating to the use of property tax abatement up to \$32,400 in costs associated with the expansion of Tony's SuperValu by addition of a new hardware store, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.1812 to 469.1815, inclusive, as amended. The total amount of tax abatements will not exceed \$32,400 collected over a period of nine (9) years, commencing with taxes payable 2022. The following tax parcel is proposed to be included in the proposed tax abatement: 56.676.0010.

Copies of the Abatement Resolution as proposed to be adopted will be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall & on City website.

All interested persons may appear at the hearings and present their view orally or in writing—we will be using Electronic/Telephonic means due to the COVID-19 emergency. Please call City Hall 218-483-3331 for information on how to call or log into our meeting remotely following the COVID-19 emergency declaration. 3-16-2020, by order of the City Council, Lisa Jetvig, City Clerk-Treasurer

**CENSUS 2020** — If you haven't yet filled out your census information, please do it on-line at **my2020census.gov** or call 844-330-2020 and use your physical address.

Your physical address can be found on your City utility billing. Thank you!

### **Do You Need A Boulevard Tree?**

If you would like a tree planted on your Boulevard, please fill out this coupon and return it to City Hall, 305 6th St by April 24 so that trees can be ordered. This form can be placed in the drop box in our front entrance—or email all the information to [info@ci.hawley.mn.us](mailto:info@ci.hawley.mn.us)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Location on boulevard you want the tree placed:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which type of tree would you prefer:

\_\_\_ Linden \_\_\_ Maple \_\_\_ Elm

If the summer is dry it is helpful to give newly planted trees a good soaking of water once a week.

**NOTE:** If you have a damaged boulevard tree that needs to be checked, trimmed, or removed, please call City Hall 218-483-3331.

### **Celebrate National Volunteer Week Apr 19-25, 2020**

National Volunteer Week is a time for organizations across the country to honor volunteers and recognize the irreplaceable impact of their time and energy all year round.

Hawley Lions, Jaycees, Women of Today, Community Club, Rodeo Volunteers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Park Board, Planning Commission, Airport Commission, PTO, Reach, FAA, Booster Club, American Legion, Fire Department, HERT, and many more groups that are active in our Community.



We also have volunteers whom plant and maintain the flower gardens in our City parks, open the Community Center for walking, care for the plants at the library, pick up garbage along the streets, shovel their neighbor's sidewalk, check in on elderly neighbors, donate blood, help out at church, donate to the food pantry, pick up after their dogs, hold doors open for others, and

much, much, much more. Thank you!