

City of Waverly
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August 4, 2020

VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 11th EITHER BY ABSENTEE BALLOT OR IN PERSON! The Minnesota Primary Election will be held August 11, 2020. Waverly's polling location – city hall – will be open for in person voting from 7am-8pm. If you are voting in person, please wear a mask while you are in the the building and socially distance as much as possible. (If you forget your mask, we will give you one!). The number of voters in the room will be limited to 5 at a time. If you would prefer to vote absentee, please check on the Wright County web site www.co.wright.mn.us/181/absentee-Voting for detailed instructions. You can either mail in your ballot or take it to the Wright County Court House in Buffalo.

CITY OFFICE IS NOW OPEN and business can be conducted during regular office hours: Monday - Thursday 8 am – 5:30 pm and Friday 8 am – Noon. As the reception area is limited staff asks that only one person (or family) be in the area at the same time. Masks are required (Governor's Executive Order 20-81) but if you forget yours we will provide one. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

CARES ACT FUNDING. You many have read about cities and townships receiving federal funds from the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act. These funds are distributed by the State and in Minnesota each city received approximately \$79 per person. For Waverly this totaled \$115,120. These funds are intended to help cover unexpected expenses arising due to the pandemic and there are strict guidelines as to what the funds can be used for. The Council is dedicating much of our available funding to personal protective equipment for the Fire Department and then towards expenses associated with sanitization of offices and supplying equipment that staff needs to continue to serve residents in a safe manner.

CENSUS RETURNS. Wright County has a very high 75% response rate to the Census, but **WAVERLY IS THE NEXT TO LOWEST IN WRIGHT COUNTY WITH A RESPONSE RATE OF 58.4%.** This means money lost for Waverly. If you have not yet done so, please complete your census response on line as quickly as you can. On the State level, the number of House Representatives depends on population and Minnesota is in danger of losing one house seat. Locally, State and federal aid depends on population counts. A prime example is the CARES funding referenced above which is distributed according to population. An annual example is the amount of LGA (Local Government Aid) that the city receives each year from the State. This is also based partially on population and remember, LGA helps keep the

property tax at a more reasonable level! So, please go to www.2020census.gov and complete the form if you have not already done so.

WOODLAND SHORES PARK IMPROVEMENTS. The park in Woodland Shores is undergoing renovation. New equipment is being added and the playground area is being made ADA compliant. (Over the next few years all neighborhood parks will be brought into ADA compliance.) Watch for the facebook notice when renovations are complete sometime in August.

WATER BILL PENALTIES: In March the Council moved to forgive all water bill penalties thru June – this was extended to July. However, effective with the billing in August penalties will again apply. If you need to arrange a payment plan for your utility bill, the city is happy to help you do so. Contact Chris or Deb at the office.

COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE ONCE AGAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Residents are always welcome at Council meeting which are the second Tuesday of each month. The Council is maintaining the appropriate social distancing requirements, so the space is rather limited. If you do have an issue to bring up, we would appreciate your calling ahead and telling our staff that you plan to attend and what you would like to bring up so that proper spacing arrangements can be make.

STAY WELL AND STAY SAFE!!!