


THE CONNECTION

November 2020 | The monthly newsletter for the City of Canton, Minnesota

 City of
CANTON
Minnesota
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BY THE NUMBERS: HEARING SET ON RATE PROPOSALS

November 10 is your opportunity to weigh in on proposed increases to City of Canton public utility rates. The city council is holding a public hearing from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Canton Town Hall, prior to the regular monthly meeting.

Canton's current water and sewer rates have been in place since October 2017. Those rates were set, in part, by using Minnesota consumption data to estimate annual customer usage. As updated information now shows, Canton's actual water usage does not align with the statewide averages. Therefore, expectant revenue – particularly in water sales – is well below what was projected back in 2017. From January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, Water Fund revenues totaled approximately \$41,000; meanwhile, fund expenses came in at around \$49,000. Do the math and that's a loss of \$8,000. Simply put, the City cannot continue to operate under the present rate schedule.

This past summer, the number crunching began at city hall. With the assistance from the Minnesota Rural Water Association, various rate proposals – including operating expenses, short-lived asset reserves and long-lived asset reserves – were prepared for city council review and discussion. At their October meeting, councilmembers decided to provide three water rate proposals for consideration at the required public hearing on the topic.

Currently, Canton residential water customers pay a total monthly service of \$17.50 (\$12.50 base fee + \$5.00 system upgrade fee) and a usage charge of

\$3.00 per 1,000 gallons of water used (\$0.003 per gallon). So, let's say you use 2,000 gallons of water in a given month – your current water charges total **\$23.50**. Keep this number in mind as you read the proposals.



THE THREE PROPOSALS

1. A monthly water service charge of \$25.00 (increase of \$7.50) and a usage charge of \$5.86 per thousand gallons (\$2.86 increase). This option creates a monthly water total of **\$36.72** for a 2,000 gallon user (monthly increase of \$13.22 for water services).
2. A monthly water service charge of \$28.50 (increase of \$11.00) and a usage charge of \$4.84 per thousand gallons (\$1.84 increase). This option creates a monthly water total of **\$38.18** for a 2,000 gallon user (monthly increase of \$14.68 for water services).
3. A monthly water service charge of \$32.00 (increase of \$14.50) and no increase to the water usage charge; it would remain at \$3.00 per thousand gallons. This option creates a monthly water total of **\$38.00** for a 2,000 gallon user (monthly increase of \$14.50 for water services).

Winter parking rules start Nov. 1

Snow or no snow, alternate side street parking begins Sunday, November 1. It is in effect from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m., November through March, regardless of the weather forecast. Under this parking system, no vehicle is permitted to be parked on the even numbered side of any street on even numbered days, and no vehicle can be parked on the odd numbered side of any street on odd numbered days. **Remember, you are parking for the calendar day at 2 a.m.** Please share this information with overnight guests. Initially, sheriff deputies will be issuing warnings to owners of vehicles parked illegally. Repeat offenders may eventually receive a \$25 citation per offense; only the city council can waive a citation. Please contact city hall if you have questions about alternate side parking.

THE VERBIAGE

➤ City Ordinance 71.04

From November 1 through March 31 of each year, between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. each day, no motor vehicles, trailers, wagons or any other obstacles to snow plowing vehicles shall be parked on the even numbered side of any City Street on even numbered days, and no motor vehicle shall be parked on the odd numbered side of any City Street on odd numbered days.

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**SORRY WE'LL BE
CLOSED!**

November 11
Veterans Day

November 26 & 27
Thanksgiving



coming soon
for utility bills

Utility rates continued from Page 1

While the Water Fund requires a significant financial boost, the Sewer Fund is in much better shape. As a result, the council has proposed no increase to the current monthly sewer service charge of \$33.00 for residential customers. A minimal monthly usage increase of \$0.00004 per thousand gallons used is on the table. Currently, the cost is \$2.40 per thousand gallons (\$0.0024 per gallon); the proposed increase brings that to \$2.44 per thousand gallons (\$0.00244 per gallon). Using 2,000 gallons as the monthly example, we're talking sewer charges totaling **\$37.80** under current pricing, with the proposed increase adding just \$0.08 – bringing the monthly total to **\$37.88** for a residential sewer customer.

All of these numbers will be further explained during the public hearing on Tuesday, November 10, from 6 to 7 p.m. Jeff Dale, with the Minnesota Rural Water Association, will also be in attendance. The city council is scheduled to vote on a rate increase plan that evening. The new rates will take effect on January 1, 2021. ■



**Four Tips to Help
Conserve Water
Indoors**

- Turn off faucet while brushing teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaks in faucets, showerheads and toilets.
- Only wash full loads.



cantonmn.com

**CREDIT CARDS ★ DEBIT CARDS
E-CHECKS
ADDITIONAL FEES APPLY**

**N E X T
COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday,
November 10**

(date changed due to
Veterans Day)

6pm
Public hearing on
utility rates

7pm
Council meeting
Canton Town Hall

Thanksgiving in Mabel: Drive-Up or Delivery

Who: Anyone and Everyone

Where: Drive-up in front of Mabel United Methodist Church, 111 W Newburg

****Line will begin at corner of Main St. and Newburg Ave.****

When: Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving) 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Cost: Free will donation

Menu: Turkey, Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dressing, Green Bean Casserole, Scalloped Corn, Cole Slaw, Cranberry Sauce, Lefse, Apple or Pumpkin Dessert

RSVP: RSVP required by **November 22** to LeeAnn Howard at (507) 459-9243 (call or text). When making reservations, please indicate if you prefer **Pumpkin or Apple Dessert**, and if requesting delivery, please provide address (Delivery available for City of Mabel and a 5 mile radius of Mabel only).

Hosted by Mabel United Methodist Church

****If you are interested in helping, either with prep work or on Thanksgiving, please let LeeAnn know.****

Supplemental funds provided by Thrivent Financial