

THE CONNECTION


City of
CANTON
Minnesota
PO Box 92 • 106 N. Main St.
Canton, MN 55922
(507) 743-5000 canton@acegroup.cc

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



PROPOSED CITY OPERATING BUDGET / TAX LEVY SET FOR CY2021

At its September 9 meeting, the Canton City Council approved a \$253,000 preliminary operating budget for CY2021. We stress this is a preliminary budget used by Fillmore County for tax levy purposes. The council voted on a proposed 4% increase for the City's tax levy. The final levy will be set by the council in December. The goal, and current intent, is reduce the proposed tax levy to a 0% increase. The preliminary levy can be lowered; however, it cannot be raised come December. The 4% proposed increase provides a cushion for possible unforeseen circumstances in our financial planning. In the coming weeks, we'll be reviewing the numbers and finalizing next year's budget.

Here's a look at some of the proposed expenditures for 2021:

- Creation of a deputy clerk position (16 hours/week, starting proposed wage of \$15/hour with PERA benefits) to oversee the utility billing program and handle front-of-office needs. The clerk/treasurer position transitions to an administrative role focusing on long-term planning/budgeting. Cross-training becomes an essential staff function. (An additional administrative employee has been recommended by the City's auditor.)
- Transition to a new fund accounting and payroll software system designed for municipalities. (Another recommendation from our auditor.)
- Elimination of General Fund dollars for street repaving projects. Shift switches toward planning for complete street reconstruction projects, funded through a combination of loans, grants and special assessments. A comprehensive streets

improvement plan would be developed to be completed over a 20-year period.

- Inclusion of additional funds to make exterior repairs to the former school bus shed on Prairie Avenue (now used for City storage), replace the deteriorating wooden gazebo with a metal structure, replace streetlight fixtures on Main Street with LEDs, and additional equipment purchases for the streets department.

For comparative purposes, the city council set CY2020 General Fund spending at \$252,500 (almost identical to the proposed CY2021 budget, with the deputy clerk salary factored in), which included a 7% tax levy increase for current year taxes payable. CY2019's final operating budget was approved at \$295,500, representing a 7.5% increase in the tax levy. Keep in mind, the General Fund does not account for public utilities – those are budgeted for separately, with funds also contributing toward staff salaries.

Hopefully, these numbers show we're working to do more for you while holding the line on taxes. The financial health of the City of Canton is sound. We are committed to investing your dollars wisely as we shift toward a more proactive local unit of government. As always, please contact city hall or a council member with questions or concerns. The next council meeting is October 14.

- **MORE INFORMATION ONLINE**
Download a copy of the preliminary CY2021 General Fund Budget at cantonmn.com.

Mail balloting for General Election

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at which the polls will be open from the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The City of Canton will be conducting the General Election by mail balloting. Registered voters will receive their ballot in the mail, beginning September 18 through October 22. Unregistered voters need to contact the Fillmore County Auditor/Treasurer's Office, or may choose to vote in-person on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Fillmore County Auditor/Treasurer's Office, located at 101 Fillmore Street in Preston. There will be no poll voting in the City of Canton, per Resolution No. 2019-01 to authorize mail balloting in CY2020 approved by the Canton City Council on December 11, 2019.

Questions or concerns about mail ballots yet to be received should be directed to the Fillmore County Auditor/Treasurer's Office (507-765-3811) and not the City of Canton or U.S. Postal Service.

**ADOPT-A-PLANTER
WINNERS**

First Prize \$100:
Fairchild Family

Second Prize \$75:
Marcia Huerkamp

Third Prize \$50:
Wayne Hall

Thanks to all the participants!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The City of Canton will hold a public hearing on proposed increases to public utility services on November 10 at 6 p.m. The hearing will take place at the Canton Town Hall, located at 107 N. Ash St. Informational packets will be available. The city council will take public comments for one hour. Jeff Dale, with the Minnesota Rural Water Association, also plans to be in attendance to answer questions and provide additional information on the need for the proposed increases. Following the public hearing, the council will convene in regular session at 7 p.m. Utility rates will be a discussion item. Any council-approved rate adjustments would occur at the beginning of 2021. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

Did you know cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries?

— SERVE UP —
Fire Safety
— IN THE KITCHEN! —

Fire Prevention Week™ is Oct. 4-10. Learn more at fpw.org.

cantonmn.com

CREDIT CARDS ★ DEBIT CARDS
E-CHECKS
ADDITIONAL FEES APPLY

**N E X T
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 14
7 pm
Canton Town Hall

- Public comments welcome
- Face coverings required
- Agenda online

Due to the current health pandemic, the annual Canton Fire Department Halloween Dance has been cancelled this year.

Donations to ensure continued operations of our local volunteer department are accepted year-round. Donations can be made at Canton City Hall or mailed to:

Canton Fire Department
PO Box 179
Canton, MN 55922

Thank you for your continued support!