



# The Connection

September 2021

106 N. Main St. P.O. Box 92 Canton, MN 55922 (507) 743-5000

## City council reviews 2021 budget

At its regular August meeting, the Canton City Council was briefed on expenditures for the first half of the calendar year. City Clerk/Treasurer Brock Bergey reported General Fund expenses totaled \$114,211 at the end of June. That's 44% of the \$257,945 budget approved by the council. Bergey noted this is the lowest General Fund spending figure in the past 10 years. The 10 year average is nearly \$137,000. General Fund expenses are further broken down into four categories. Here's how each fared this year:

- ☑ **General Government**  
\$67,044 or 55% of budget
- ☑ **Public Safety**  
\$6,000 or 18% of budget
- ☑ **Community Development**  
\$5,620 or 281% of budget
- ☑ **Streets**  
\$35,547 or 32% of budget

The Community Development overage reflects the unbudgeted spending on the electric service upgrades to the ball field. However, the revenue for these costs came from the redemption of a CD earmarked for parks and recreation, with no negative impact to the General Fund.

While the news is good for the General Fund, the same cannot be said for the City's enterprise funds.

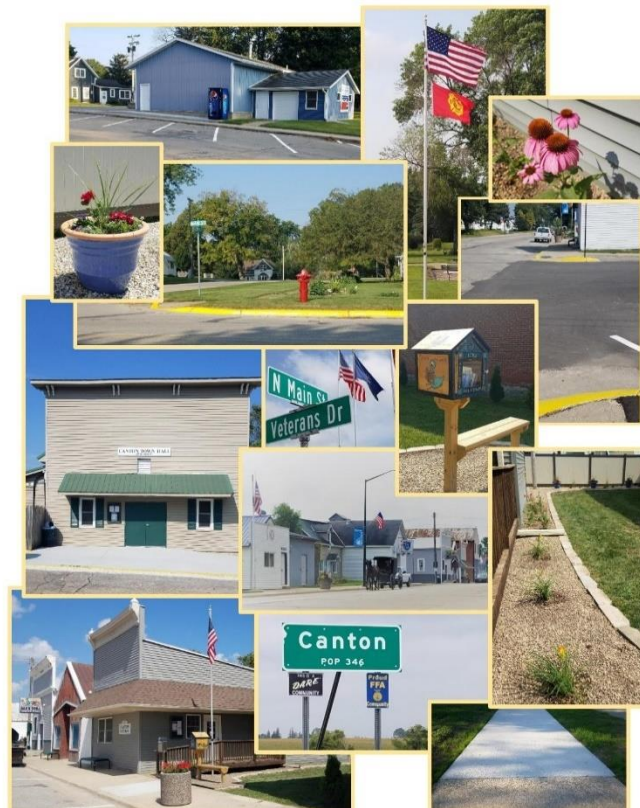
Water Fund expenditures, during the first half of 2021, totaled \$36,958, which is 54% of budget. However, revenues totaled \$36,277, or 44% of the budgeted amount. That means Quarter 2 ended with a net loss of \$681. Bergey noted the Water Fund was doing better than it was during the same period last year. Water rates were increased in 2021, which Bergey explained

continued on P. 2

## City works to improve image

Just in time for the Canton Day Off festivities, the City of Canton completed several projects to enhance the appearance of our community. The recent improvements include:

- Pavement repairs to the downtown approaches to Main Street
- Fresh paint on no parking zones on the Main Street curbs
- Addition of white lines to designate parking spots in the downtown
- Creation of three handicapped parking spaces in the downtown
- Replacement of several damaged sections of sidewalk on Main Street
- Fresh paint on the town hall doors and shutters
- Replacement and expansion of the concrete in front of the town hall to eliminate trip hazards
- Fresh paint on the Main Street fire hydrants
- Creation of two little free libraries (built and designed by M-C students)
- Landscaping projects at city hall
- Installation of new flag poles at the fire hall and city hall
- Updated signage at some of our facilities
- Painting the roof at the former bus shed (additional work to be done this fall)



Several of the materials and items for these projects were donated, along with some of the labor. Other materials were repurposed and resulted in significant cost-savings.

Our sincerest thanks to all of you who had a hand in these projects. We also wish to extend appreciation to our residents and business owners who take pride in their properties, through regular maintenance and upkeep. ★

continued from P. 1

has allowed the City to nearly break-even; however, he said additional revenue is not being generated for short-lived and long-lived asset reserves.

The numbers for the Sewer Fund presented better; however, Bergey stressed the refinancing of the wastewater treatment facility loan eliminated a payment in the 2021 budget cycle. As a result, first-half expenses totaled \$30,917, or 33% of budget. Revenues came in at \$32,104, or 42% of budget. That resulted in a net gain of \$1,187. Bergey stated that does little to build up reserves.

Bergey recommended the utilities committee meet to further review the numbers and discuss options. He also reminded the council that the revenue collection calendar year is different for the enterprise funds. A complete year of financial data won't be available until February 1, 2022 (December services are billed in January).

The fire department's spending presented well, with expenditures totaling \$12,118 as of June 30. That's 46% of the budgeted amount for the year.

The city council will begin discussing the 2022 budget season at its September meeting. A preliminary General Fund budget must be submitted to Fillmore County by September 30 for tax levy purposes. The final tax levy, for taxes payable in 2022, can be lowered by the council; however, it cannot be raised. The final General Fund budget will be set in December. There was no increase to the City's levy for taxes payable in 2021. The levy was set to generate \$159,157 in General Fund dollars for 2021. That's nearly 62% of this year's operating budget.

### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

September 8 @ 6 p.m.  
Canton Town Hall

- ✓ Public comments welcome
- ✓ Agenda on [cantonmn.com](http://cantonmn.com)

## "Wish List" generates meaningful donations



The Kerns family donated the new 25-foot flagpole at the fire hall. It was given in memory of Brian "Burns" Kerns, who served on the Canton Fire Department for 24 years.



The Ramlo family donated the new 20-foot flagpole at city hall. It was given in memory of the William Ramlo family, the Ronald Ramlo family and the Verl Ramlo family for their service to the community.



Interested in learning more?  
Contact city hall for donation ideas

- ✓ Benches
- ✓ Picnic tables
- ✓ Playground equipment

### ● NOTICE ●

Due to the Labor Day holiday, garbage and recycling will be collected on **Thursday, September 9** instead of Wednesday, September 8.

**We are closed!**



Have a safe and fun holiday!

Stay connected with [cantonmn.com](http://cantonmn.com)