



Mayor

Duane Willenbring 320-293-8732

Councilors:

Vince Schaefer 320-253-1499

Don Simon 320-250-9674

Rick Tallman 320-266-4856

Jerry Tippelt 320-282-4091



City Hall will be closed:

Monday, December 25

Monday, January 1

Monday, January 15

Monday, February 19

City Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month
at 6:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Meetings

1st Tuesday of each month
at 6:00 p.m.

ROCORI Trail Construction Board

1st Thursday of each month at 9 a.m.

(all meetings are held at City Hall)

Please check the city's website for any changes.

A Message from the Mayor

Mayors have the responsibility to exert leadership in city affairs. Because the mayors of statutory cities lack significant individual authority, this responsibility frequently calls for consensus building and tact rather than overt acts of direction or supervisory control. In addition, no leader is successful simply because he is decisive alone, or thoughtful and measured all the time. Rather leaders are successful, because they are decisive when needed and thoughtful and measured at the right moment in time.

Key Traits of Successful Leaders

While there are many differences in mayors, there are many common traits in their approach to governing that seem to strongly influence their success as leaders. It is my belief that these traits include the following:

- Successful mayors have an attitude of humility. All mayors can be justifiably proud that they have been elected, it is a significant accomplishment, it is also humbling of the trust that citizens have that they will be ethical and competent leaders; they realize that they are no smarter than before their election, that there is much to learn, and much is expected of them.
- Successful mayors reject an attitude of entitlement. Effective mayors expect to give more than they receive. They recognize that their position is not one of entitlement, but rather one of responsibility to their constituents, council colleagues, and staff.
- Successful mayors recognize the difference between being responsive and responsible. Often the mayor is the most visible representative of city governance in the community. As a result, mayors may spend a great deal of their time simply listening to concerns of their constituents—who are often also their neighbors, friends, relatives, coworkers, and customers etc. However, it is important to recognize that the public's interest is often different than a particular constituent's desire and needs. Successful mayors know that while it is sometimes appropriate to respond to the needs of individual constituents, in other instances we must act for the betterment of the whole community, even when some residents may not like it. It is essential to evaluate each decision against both principles, and have the courage to act appropriately.
- Successful mayors value partnership and teamwork. Effective governance is no more than effective teams. When the mayor, city councilmembers, and staff view each other as resources and partners, they are more likely to be able to meet their community's needs, no matter how difficult. However, when the elected officials are constantly looking for scapegoats and blaming staff or each other it chills innovation and leads to low morale and turnover, and ultimately to failure. Both elected and/or appointed officials and staff must be held accountable, but mistakes will occur. Effective mayors spend their energy on learning from mistakes and how to avoid them in the future, and not on finding someone to blame.

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LONG TERM WINTER CARE FOR RESIDENTS WITH GRINDER STATIONS

Long term or winter lay-up does not adversely affect your grinder station. However, there are a few routine steps that you should take to prevent maintenance problems upon your return. The following is a simple list of steps to take before seasonal or other long term absences:

- ✓ Ensure that nothing is blocking the airflow around the bottom of the cover.
- ✓ Before closing your home for an extended period of time (one week or longer), run clean water out of a faucet into your grinder station for approximately 30 minutes. This will thoroughly flush the line from your grinder station to the main line. Failure to flush the line could result in build up causing future expense to the homeowner.
- ✓ Do NOT turn off the power to the grinder station at the panel. If you normally turn off the main power to shut everything down, turn off all of the other individual circuits EXCEPT the grinder station.
- ✓ Let a trusted neighbor know you are leaving so they will be aware of any red lights or alarms in your absence.

If you have any winterizing questions or concerns, please call the Maintenance Department at 320-251-5836.



Fire Department News Winter Holiday Fire Safety

Did you know?

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season be fire smart.

- ◆ Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
- ◆ Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.
- ◆ Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- ◆ If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.

For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov

Winter Parking During Snow Emergencies

Ordinance No. 2012-75
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING DURING
SNOW EMERGENCIES ON ALL CITY STREETS
DURING WINTER MONTHS

On the occasions of heavy snowfalls, the Public Works Director shall determine when to commence and/or suspend snow plowing operations.

When snow has accumulated to a depth greater than 1 ½" inches, a "NO PARKING BAN" will be in effect over the entire city. It shall be the responsibility of the duty police officer (Stearns County Sheriff) to cite and/or tow all violators. After the streets are plowed, parking will be permitted.

Violators of this ordinance will be subject to a \$25.00 penalty and in the event that it is necessary that a vehicle be towed away, the cost of the towing, the penalty, and any other related charges will be at the expense of the vehicle owner and will be collected in full before any vehicle is released.

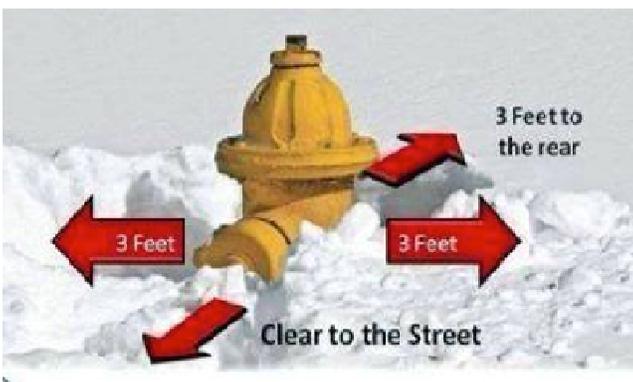
This ordinance repeals and supersedes all previous snow removal ordinances relating to the removal of snow on public streets in the City of Rockville.

Snow Removal Around Fire Hydrants

During the winter season residents are asked to keep fire hydrants free from obstruction of snow.

As you shovel or push snow off your driveways and sidewalks, take time to clear the snow from around fire hydrants (three-foot radius).

During a fire, seconds counts. Help keep your home safe from winter fire hazards by ensuring your fire hydrants are clear and readily accessible in an emergency.





CITY OF ROCKVILLE SNOWPLOWING POLICY

The city of Rockville believes it is in the best interest of the residents for the city to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on city streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The city will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The city will use city employees, equipment, and/or private contractors to provide this service.

When will city start snow or ice control operations? The Maintenance Department will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- * Snow accumulation of 1 ½" thickness on paved roads or 3" or more on gravel roads;
- * Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- * Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- * Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently snowplowing operations will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than 1 ½" on paved roads or 3" on gravel roads.

How snow will be plowed? Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. The discharge shall go onto the boulevard area of the street. When a plow goes on a bridge, the driver shall slow down so snow does not go over the bridge, if possible. In times of extreme snowfall, streets will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

Snow removal: The Maintenance Department will determine when snow will be removed from the area by truck. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the boulevard for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snowplowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel, and budget availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

Priorities and schedule for which streets will be plowed: The city has classified city streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Those streets classified as "Snow Plow Routes" will be plowed first. These are high volume routes, which connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police, and medical services.

The second priority streets are those streets providing access to schools and commercial businesses. The third priority streets are low volume residential streets. The fourth priority areas are alleys and city parking lots.

Work schedule for snowplow operators: Snowplow operators will be expected to work eight-hour shifts. In severe snow emergencies, operators sometimes have to work in excess of eight-hour shifts. However, because of budget and safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a twelve-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. Operators will take a fifteen-minute break every two hours with a half-hour meal break after four hours. After a twelve-hour day, the operators will be replaced if additional qualified personnel are available.

Weather conditions: Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of city employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds, and limited visibility.

Use of sand, salt and other chemicals: The city will use sand, salt, and other chemicals when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The city is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

Sidewalks: The city will maintain some of the sidewalks in the city. As there are a limited number of personnel available, the city will only maintain these sidewalks after the streets have been plowed.

Curb Marking Posts Help Snow Plows

To help out the City snow plow crews this winter, the City is recommending that property owners mark their property lines along roadways with curb marker posts. When streets and sidewalks are covered with snow, it is almost impossible to determine the edge of the road or sidewalk. You can purchase these markers at any local hardware store. Residents are reminded that the City is not responsible for damage that may be done from snowplows including damage to sprinkler heads. Keep in mind — Plowing or shoveling snow from driveways and sidewalks onto/across public roads and streets may be punishable as a misdemeanor (Minn. Statutes 169.42 and 160.27, subdivision 5). This can create a hazard not only for motorists but for snowplows and drivers as well.

Mayors Message from page 1

- Successful mayors gather their facts before making decisions. Some issues that arise do require immediate action, even when all the facts or opinions have not been collected. However, successful mayors recognize that these rare situations are the exception rather than the rule. Mayors and city councils may at times feel enormous pressure from constituents to act immediately in response to a crisis or new event. Taking the time to plan a thoughtful, concerted response may not always be a popular decision. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that, even in a crisis; better decisions invariably result when there is opportunity and effort to gather crucial information and thoroughly discuss alternatives.

Promoting Citizen Involvement

Many observers of local government strongly correlate the level of engagement between citizens and their government with the overall success and vitality of a community. Increasingly, public officials are learning that one of the most effective ways to address challenging community issues is through citizen and stakeholder dialogue. When issues are discussed in citizen stakeholder groups, people can more easily balance individual needs with the common good. Group interaction promotes civic skills, such as talking, debate, persuasion, negotiation, creativity, and compromise. When citizens with different viewpoints talk to each other to develop policy recommendations that serve the common good of the community, the participants:

- Learn more about the issues.
- Connect their personal experiences to the policy debate.
- Are more likely to devote their time and energy to implementing the action ideas they've recommended.
- Forge effective working relationships with others, including city elected officials and staff.

It is my belief that my role as mayor of your city is to inspire citizen participation in government which includes: *be an advocate for your city's story, be a model in meeting decorum, respect and civility, share information freely, serve as an inspirational role in challenging citizens to think about their own obligations to build and maintain the community, be an advocate for engaging youth and diverse segment of the community with government, and many others to numerous to mention.*

In closing; Happy Holidays to you and your family! It is an honor to serve as your Mayor of the great City of Rockville.

Mayor,
Duane W.

USE OF SNOWMOBILES IN THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE

Ordinance No. 2004-21. Snowmobiles should be driven on designated snowmobile trails. The snowmobile trail is clearly marked. Watch for the trail signs. Use ditch bottoms or far right hand side of street or road if necessary.



Do NOT operate your snowmobile on:

- * Sidewalks
- * Boulevards within any public right-of-way
- * Private property of another without specific permission of the owner
- * Parks (city or county—unless otherwise posted)
- * Inside slope, shoulder, or roadway of state and county roads
- * Interstate highways or freeway

For additional information on snowmobile regulations visit the Minnesota DNR's website:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/snowmobiling

FRAGRANCE FREE ZONE

Once in a while we'll see a sign in a public facility, usually medical offices, stating the intention to make it a 'fragrance free' setting for the benefit of those who have allergies, asthma and chemical sensitivities. City Hall in Rockville is one of these facilities with that sign.



Reducing our exposure to fragranced products is not just for the patients of hospitals; it's for the nurses, doctors and in fact...anyone who **breathes**. Heavily fragranced products is not limited to perfumes and colognes, but includes soaps, lotions, after-shave products, hair products and even deodorants, as they can trigger everything from minor nasal irritation to a migraine headache to a full blown asthma attack.

Many of us have had an adverse reaction to a fragrance at some point of our lives and knowing that there are facilities like hospitals creating positive change is one way to continue the much needed process to educate the public about the possible harms of fragranced products. The effort isn't limited to hospitals but airports, conference centers, events, retreats, communities and schools are all becoming more aware.

*** COMING IN JANUARY 2018 ***

City of Rockville Utility Customers



It's easy as...

123

We are making your life easier!

Pay anytime, from anywhere!

The City of Rockville has gone electronic. You can pay online or on a mobile device. We now accept payments by credit card, debit card, checking or savings.

FEATURES OF ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

- *Make an immediate payment, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay for the amount of your bill or a set budgeted amount*
- *View your balance due online or on the mobile app*
- *Go online to print receipts, view payment history and more*
- *It's just 3 quick steps once you register*
- *Pay from your checking or savings account (\$1 convenience fee applies)*
- *Pay by credit or debit card (2.75% [+50¢ if under \$100] convenience fee applies)*



www.RockvilleCity.org

Click on the bill payment link. You will go to our payment processor's website where you should register and make your payment. Future payments are just 3 easy steps.



Download "PSN Payments"

Go to the App Store® or Google Play™ to download the app.

We use Payment Service Network (PSN) for our electronic payment processing. PSN has been certified as maintaining the highest level of security as required by the credit card industry.

Payment processing by...



A Gift of Remembrance



Have you considered giving the gift that will honor someone forever?

Applications are being accepted for names to be added to the Rockville Veterans Monument. All names submitted from now until spring will be engraved on the monument in Spring of 2018.

This monument is for all current, past and future members of the military, firefighters, and law enforcement. You do not need to live here to have your name on the monument. Please consider this as a gift for a person whom you would like to honor.

Please fill out the application below and send to the address listed.
Applications are also available at Rockville City Hall or www.rockvillecity.org

Please Print

Name of Donor: _____

Donor's Phone Number: _____

Name of Veteran/Individual: _____

Circle one branch of service:

Army / Marine Corps / Navy / Air Force / Coast Guard / Merchant Marines

Law Enforcement / Firefighter / First Responder — City of Service _____

Names submitted at a cost of \$125.00 per name.

- **Make checks payable to:**
RASC Rockville Veteran's Monument Fund
- **Return application and payment to:**
Rockville Veteran's Monument Committee
P.O. Box 185
Rockville, MN 56369

Thank you for your support!



Rockville Lions Holiday Gift Program

The Rockville Lions are sponsoring a Holiday Gift Program. It is for families or individuals in **our area** who are in need of food, monetary or materialistic items. We are asking you to apply by filling out the application form (below) and return to: Rockville Lions, P.O. Box 406, Rockville MN 56369. Applications can also be found at Rockville City Hall, the Granite Edge Café, Rockville Post Office, or the church in Rockville.

All applications must be received no later the Wednesday, December 13, 2017.



ROCKVILLE LIONS CLUB HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM APPLICATION

**FOR FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS
IN NEED OF FOOD, CLOTHING, OR OTHER MATERIALISTIC ITEMS**

Head of Household: _____

Address: _____

Contact name : _____

Phone number: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____

*Connection to the Rockville Area? _____

	NAME	M/F	Age	Clothing needs and size
1.	_____	M/F	_____	_____
2.	_____	M/F	_____	_____
3.	_____	M/F	_____	_____
4.	_____	M/F	_____	_____
5.	_____	M/F	_____	_____

Mail to: Rockville Lions, PO Box 406, Rockville MN 56369

- ◆ All applications will be considered. Information given may be shared with other agencies to help with your needs. A photo I.D. must be shown at distribution time.
- ◆ Applications must be received by December 13, 2017.

City of Rockville
229 Broadway St E
PO Box 93
Rockville MN 56369

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Rockville MN
PERMIT #6

Address Service Requested

Would you like to get in the Christmas Spirit?

The **Rockville Lions Club**
is sponsoring a
Holiday Gift Program.



If you would like to help support
our community, donations would be appreciated.

The program is in need of toys, hats, mittens or cash.
Items can be dropped off at Rockville City Hall,
the Granite Edge Cafe, or the Parish Center at church.

Checks may be written out and mailed to:
Rockville Lions, P.O. Box 406, Rockville MN 56369.

If you would like to sponsor a child or a family
or have any questions please contact
Rosie @ 320-252-6473.

All donations will stay in our local area.

Thank you! *The Rockville Lions*

Looking for a good book
to read this winter?
How about a jigsaw puzzle?
Stop by City Hall and
check out the Book Nook!
Books and puzzles
for all ages and it's FREE!



Would you like to have your newsletter emailed to you rather than mailed? We can do that!
Email us at cityhall@rockvillecity.org to sign up.