

City of Willernie

Mayor's Letter

January 2024

Dear Residents,

2024 will be my 24th year as mayor of the City of Willernie and will be my last. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your mayor, but it is time to step down and for others to step up. The November 2024 national and local elections are important this year. For Willernie, there will be the mayor's position and 2 city council positions on the ballot. It is important that those positions are filled by registered candidates in order for us to remain a viable city.

Increase in the Sewer Costs

You will see an increase in your sewer bill of \$7.30 every quarter due to the increase from Met Council for wastewater management.



Why pay attention to what goes in the sewer?



The City of Mahtomedi had a good article in their newsletter that I will paraphrase: Sewers are designed to take human waste and transport it to the wastewater treatment plant. Items that belong in solid waste or garbage should never be flushed down the wastewater system. When other than human waste gets flushed down, problems can occur and cause the wastewater treatment facility and the city to spend more money and energy to keep the system operational. It also puts more strain on our aging lift station. So why does it matter? Sewer blockages can cause plugged and overflowing toilets, raw sewage backup, health hazards and odors, manholes overflowing into nearby waters, and increase in City's maintenance cost and homeowner's repair and maintenance cost.

How can you help? Don't flush paper towels, wipes (even "flushable" ones), paper rags and cloth, plastic, feminine hygiene products, diapers, mop heads, dental floss, shop rags, cigarette butts, latex gloves, needles, tissues, grease, fats, or cooking oil. An easier way to remember what not to flush is to not flush anything that does not come out of your body.

Paying your Water, Sewer, Trash and Recycle Bill

We get our water from Mahtomedi. They require us to pay within 30 days. For us to meet our obligation, you folks need to pay your water, trash, recycling, sewer bill on time. Your bill is due in 30 days. After 30 days, if the bill is not paid, there is a 10% fine. So, if your bill is \$170 and it is not paid in 30 days, you now owe \$17 more. The city is aware that times can be hard for some, and we are willing to work with you. You can make arrangements to pay your bill in three installments per quarter. Please note, you can now pay online through your bank and the money will be sent to the Willernie City Office. The city does not take credit or debit cards due to the added expense.



Actions Needed during the Snowy Months

Should it actually snow this winter:



1. Please keep your garbage and recycle cans off the street. The garbage and recycle trucks have an arm that can reach into the beginning of your driveway. Garbage and recycle cans on the street create a problem should it snow, and the streets need to be plowed.
2. Remember that your motor vehicles need to be off the street if it snows.
3. **Do not shovel or snow blow snow onto the street.** That means piling it onto the edge of the road for it can freeze there and cause a hazard for the snowplow.
4. **Do not shovel snow onto your neighbor's property.**
5. If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please be kind enough to make sure it is shoveled out after a snowstorm. The house you save in case of fire may be yours.

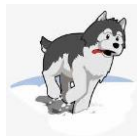




Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is permitted on Willernie roads provided the driver follows the rules of the road. Snowmobiling is not allowed in the city parks or green spaces, or on property not your own.

Dog and Cat Licenses



License your dog or cat. A reminder to those of you who have dogs or cats, they need to be licensed. The cost is \$3.00 per animal and the license is good for two years. Also, there is a limit as to how many cats and dogs are allowed for each household. A household is allowed 2 dogs and 2 cats only, equaling 4 pets. If you would want, say 3 cats, you need to approach the City Council and get permission for the third cat. That would then limit you to 1 dog or vice versa.



Some ideas for the coming year to reduce expenses:

1. Recycle to reduce the amount of garbage you put out each week and then possibly you can go to the next size down on your garbage can and save some money. (Contact Vickie at City Hall if you want a smaller garbage can.)
2. Reduce the amount of water you use for showers and baths. Turn off your water when you are brushing your teeth. Do not have the water running while you are washing dishes. Rinse the dishes when you have finished washing.
3. Wash larger loads of wash rather than a number of smaller loads.
4. Become conscious of how often you leave a room and do not turn the lights off. Only have lights on in the room you are in.
5. If you are not using all that high tech gear, we all seem to need and rely on, when not in use, unplug it so it does not continue to draw electricity. (Or turn off the power strip.)



Looking out for each other

One of the reasons I like living in Willernie is the fact that though we are a suburb of St. Paul and part of the greater metro area, we still maintain many of the good qualities of a small village where neighbors know each other and look after each other. That has become especially important in this very cold, damp, and sometimes snowy weather. Please make an extra effort to check on your neighbor and give a helping hand if needed.



Why is City Hall still locked?

Folks have asked why we have continued to keep City Hall locked. We have done this for the safety of our City Clerk and the other city clerks who share our building. We want to keep them safe, especially when they are working there alone. City hall will continue to be closed except by appointment. If you need anything, our city clerk is available by phone (651) 429-2977). If you do need to pick something up from city hall (9:00 to noon, Monday through Thursday), knock on the front door or call ahead. City Council meetings will be held at City Hall and council meetings will continue to be held on zoom. Meeting information can be found on the city website.

Sincerely,
Barbara Parent, Mayor



Willernie website: Enter www.willernie.org for information, meeting minutes, ordinances, licenses, permits, and how to contact us.