

# City Highlights

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## GARBAGE CAN PLACEMENT

The city crew requests residents place their garbage and recycling containers three (3) to five (5) feet off the street.

Driving around garbage cans when street sweeping or plowing snow is difficult and requires staff to come back a day or so later to clean up those areas if they need to clean around them.

When the crew has to come back and clean up an area because garbage cans are placed in the street or too close to the edge of the street, the cost of removal goes up.

Waste Management has the equipment to properly pick up the receptacle off of the curb within a 3-5 foot radius of the roadway. Place carts away from vehicles, mailboxes, trees, and other objects. Plan ahead for a snowy winter, and remember to clear a spot for your trash cans to sit in the boulevard when you are clearing your driveways and sidewalks after each snowfall.



## WINTER REMINDERS

**Snow Plowing** – crews begin plowing snow when there is an accumulation of 1 inch or more of snow. During a snowfall, plows will work to maintain the city's main truck routes. When snow fall exceeds 1 inch, residents are to move their vehicles off the street to allow plows to clear the street. Once the street has been cleared curb to curb, vehicles may return to the street. Residents with limited or no off-street parking may also park their vehicle in their front yard during a plowing event. When the snow emergency is over and streets are clear, vehicles are to be returned to the street.

**Snowmobiles** – the operation of snowmobiles around the city is not permitted. Snowmobiles may travel through the city only to get to a designated snowmobile trail. There is a designated trail going through Memorial Park. Check with the local snowmobile group or the DNR for information on trails in the area.

**Sidewalks** – if you have a sidewalk running past your house or business, it is your responsibility to keep it free of snow and ice. Please have the sidewalk cleared as soon as possible following a snow with an accumulation of 2 or more inches.

It is important to keep the sidewalk clear for the kids who walk to school as well.

When clearing your sidewalk or driveway, do not push snow into the street or onto your neighbor's property.

## 2024 BUDGET SET

The city council approved the 2024 city budget following the annual Truth in Taxation hearing held on Monday, December 4, 2023.

The final levy, including debt, is set at \$2,455,737.

This is a reduction of \$21,837 [.9%] from the preliminary levy. The general fund budget was set at \$3,480,317. This is a reduction of \$163,218 [4.5%] from the preliminary budget.

The city tax rate will go up about 1.4% - from 63.322% to about 64.214% - which means, homeowner's property taxes will increase roughly by the increase in the taxable value and the city's tax rate. For example, if your taxable property value [estimated market value less homestead exclusion] increased 10%, then the city property tax should increase roughly 11.4%.

Throughout the city, average home values increased roughly 12% and taxable value increased roughly 14%. The largest factor in your individual property tax liability is related to the value of your property. If you have specific questions regarding the estimated market value of your property, contact the County Assessor's Office.

As with past years, the largest expense in the city's budget is public safety [police and fire]. This function represents 46% of the budget, or \$1,591,742.

Administration [council, elections, administration, planning/zoning] is the next highest at 20% of expenditures, or \$688,881. This is followed by streets

and snow/ice at 15%, or \$543,185. The final 19% is Culture and recreation [parks and library] at 9% [\$211,828], transfers at 6% [\$310,000], and Miscellaneous at 4% [\$134,682].

On the revenue side, property taxes are the largest source of funding for the general fund, followed by local government aid. Property taxes account for 59.7% and local government aid consists of 34.5%. The remaining 5.8% comes from fines and fees, charges for service, interest, and miscellaneous charges.

The property tax covers the cost of providing full-time police protection. The city has a department with seven (7) sworn officers who provide coverage 24 hours a day. The repair, maintenance and improvement to city streets and parks, the conduct of elections every other year, maintenance, and improvement to city facilities. Training and equipment for the fire department. And planning, zoning, and other administrative duties to support the council, and departments.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING



The City is collecting Holiday Lights again this year to recycle. They can be dropped off anytime at City Hall. There is a recycling bin located outside the lobby front door.

## NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The City's website has a notification system that allows residents to subscribe to receive text and/or e-mail alerts when there is a notification sent by the city.

The City uses the notification system to alert residents when a snow emergency has been declared and when a water main breaks.

Signing up for the service is easy. Visit the City's website at [www.cityofmontgomerymn.com](http://www.cityofmontgomerymn.com) and click on the "Notify Me" icon. Then follow the steps.

You can remove yourself from the notification list at any time.

## COMPOST SITE

The compost site will be closing for the winter when weather makes access problematic. Closure of the site will be posted on the City website and Facebook page. If you have brush or Christmas trees to dispose of, once the site has been closed, you may do so at the City garage located at 205 Boulevard Avenue NW.

The staff has a designated location for the disposal of these items. Please watch the signage for proper disposal.

## Council Contact Information

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