



Water Treatment Plant Facilities Plan Accepted

On February 6th the City Council held a public hearing on a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) facilities plan. After the hearing Council accepted the plan and authorized its submittal to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Creation of the facilities plan was authorized in September 2021.

The WWTP plan addresses current wastewater treatment capacity limitations and is a required step in a process to secure funding for plant rehabilitation and expansion. Funding sources include the Clean Water Revolving Fund and a Point Source Implementation Grant.

The WWTP facilities plan examined three potential alternatives:

- Alternative 1:** Rehabilitate the existing treatment facility with no added treatment capacity. This option includes replacing and restoring all equipment and structures based on immediate needs. The projected cost is \$6-9M.
- Alternative 2:** Rehabilitate existing facility and add process redundancy to meet 2045 design flows and loadings. This is a phased option includes everything in Alternative 1 and constructing new processes to meet 2045 design flows and loadings. The projected cost for phase one is \$15-20M. Phase two, if/when pursued would bring the total cost of this alternative to \$28M.
- Alternative 3:** Connect with Metropolitan Council wastewater treatment facility for treatment and discharge. This option includes constructing about 25 miles of forcemain with lift stations to pump the city's wastewater to the nearest Metro Council WWTP. The projected cost of constructing the forcemain and lift stations is \$38-49M. Additional conveyance and treatment capacity charges would bring the total cost to \$58M.

The WWTP facilities plan recommends pursuing Alternative 2 in a phased manner to rehab, restore, and accommodate projected growth targets. The first phase will focus on liquid phase to alleviate need for ponds. The second phase will be dependent on future population growth and biosolids treatment needs.

Following the acceptance and submittal of the WWTP facilities plan, the City Council authorized preliminary engineering. Specific items to be designed include: improvements to aging infrastructure including preliminary treatment; oxidation ditch rehab and capacity addition; clarifier rehab and capacity addition; biosolids digestion rehab and capacity addition; UV disinfection improvements, and electrical and control system updates. The preliminary project schedule contemplates MPCA approval and project bidding in 2024 with potential improvements being operational in 2026. The schedule is subject to change.

The City's original wastewater treatment system consisted of stabilization ponds. In 2004 mechanical treatment was added. Currently the mechanical plant is operating at its capacity limit.



Skate with an Officer participants on January 18.

Behind the Scenes - Community Development

Keeping a city like Belle Plaine running smoothly, safely, and efficiently takes the hard work of many people and departments. Some department functions are well known: the Fire Department is ready to help in an emergency, the Police Department is out patrolling our neighborhoods, Public Works staff are busy with streets, parks, and utilities.

Administrative services are perhaps less visible but still working to keep everything operating seamlessly. One department, whose efforts are often somewhat visible, but not always apparent, is the Community Development Department (CDD.) Community Development includes many programs and services covering planning and zoning, economic development, building inspections, permitting, housing, and code enforcement.

Planning and zoning programs and services help manage the city's overall growth and development through the administration of the city's guiding documents, including the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan, *Destination 2040*, is prepared locally to be consistent with Twin Cities Metropolitan plans and state law. *Destination 2040* plans goals and policies and sets future direction on land use, parks, transportation, housing, utilities, and economic competitiveness. The zoning and subdivision codes are 'local controls' that help actualize the vision included in *Destination 2040*. Whether you are strolling through historic downtown, watching your kids play at Fountain Park, or shopping at a business along Enterprise Drive, the feel you get as you travel through the city is a result planning and zoning guidance.

A strong, diverse, and sustainable local economy is essential to a healthy and prosperous city. Economic development plans and programs help foster an environment

that can sustain such an economy. This is accomplished through programs including, but limited not to, various business grants, low interest loans, and tax abatement or tax increment financing.

On July 1st, 1972 the first Minnesota State Building Code went into effect. Since then it has provided a standard to which all buildings need to be constructed in order to keep occupants and structures safe. Building inspections and permitting programs enforce the building code in the City of Belle Plaine. On any given day staff are processing permits, reviewing construction documents for code compliance, and conducting site inspections to ensure all construction in the Belle Plaine meets building code.

A community should have ample opportunities for a variety of housing types for everyone. From renters and first time homeowners, to workforce housing, empty-nesters, and senior living, housing policies and programs help promote housing opportunities for everyone.

In addition to the state building code and local zoning and subdivision codes the city has passed several other local laws. The local laws are ordinances passed by the City Council and collected in together as the "city code". The city code addresses a variety of topics including nuisances, right-of-way, streets, sidewalks, parking, animals, and utilities. The City enforces code on a complaint basis. This means potential code violations are investigated on a case by case basis following the receipt of a signed, written complaint. If a violation is found to exist, staff reaches out and informs property owners of the need to resolve the issue.

The next time you need a permit, have a zoning question, or are looking for business assistance reach out to CDD staff.

WaterSense Rebates Still Available in 2023

Do you have an old, inefficient toilet that needs replacing? Now might be the perfect time to do it. The popular WaterSense Rebate Program is back for 2023. This program offers a \$75.00 rebate when you replace your old toilet with a new, high efficiency model with the WaterSense label on it. Both residential and business customers connected to water service provided by the City of Belle Plaine may be eligible for this rebate. Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and eligibility requirements visit the city website, www.belleplainemn.gov, and click on "Municipal Utility Services", or call City Hall at 952-873-5553.



Downtown Project - Tree Removal and Awareness of the Northern Long-eared Bat

On Nov 29, 2022 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Section 9 of the Federal ESA prohibits any person from "taking" an endangered species of fish or wildlife. The Section 9 take prohibition applies to federal and non-federal activities, including activities on private property. To take a species is to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect. Harm includes activities that

destroy or significantly modify habitat to an extent that it actually kills or injures the endangered species. Harassment includes intentional or negligent act or omission, which creates the likelihood of injury by annoying it in a way that disrupts normal behavioral patterns.

As a result, tree removal as part of the 2023 Downtown Project will occur prior to March 31st. Bats are underground hibernating in caves and mines during this time and will not be susceptible to injury or death because of tree clearing.



Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Open/Inactive Permit Review Underway

Review of open building, plumbing, mechanical, and zoning permits is underway. The Community Development Department (CDD) is reviewing all open permits that haven't been closed out. Permits are closed when a final inspection is passed. Permits not closed remain open unless they become inactive. If you have a previously issued open permit and you haven't done anything in the past six months, please call building inspections at 952-873-5553. Permit holders may request permits be extended an additional six months.

Open permits which have been inactive for six months or more may be expired due to inactivity. An expired permit status means the activity for which the permit was issued remains open (not final inspected or approved by the Building Official) and a new permit must be issued before any additional work or inspection may be completed. Please be aware expired permits discovered during due diligence reviews may occasionally hold up the sale of property.



Resident Input Sought On Garbage Haulers

The City Council seeks resident's input on the concept of licensing one garbage hauler for residential garbage pick-up. At this time the City licenses up to three garbage haulers for residential pick-up.

The Council is seeking general public input prior to considering moving into a discussion about reducing the number of residential garbage haulers from three to one.

Please take moment to complete the following survey using the QR code here or go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GarbageHaulers>.



Scan QR code to participate in survey

You may also access the survey through belleplainemn.gov or through our Facebook page, or pick up a paper copy at City Hall. The survey should take no longer than three minutes to complete. Your input is appreciated.



City Council Highlights & City Notices

February 6, 2023 - Regular Session

- Approved Regular Session Minutes of January 17, 2023.
- Approved Work Session Minutes of January 17, 2023.
- Approved Resolution 23-015 Accepting a \$100.00 Donation from the Tousignant Family.
- Approved Resolution 23-016 A Resolution Approving a Park Equipment Deed Restriction for Fountain Park and Authorizing Execution Thereof.
- Approved Ordinance 23-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3 of the City Code Adding Section 319 Pertaining to the Sale and Use of Tetrahydrocannabinol Products.
- Approved Resolution 23-017 A Resolution Authorizing Summary Publication of Ordinance 23-02, Amending Chapter 3 of the City Code Adding Section 319 Pertaining to the Sale and Use of Tetrahydrocannabinol Products.
- Approved Resolution 23-018 Appointing Gerald Brekke, Michael Korba and Austin Meschki as members of the Belle Plaine Fire Department.
- Approved Resolution 23-019 Amending the Official Newspaper from Resolution 23-001, 2023 Official and Professional Appointments.
- Approved Temporary On Sale Liquor License for an Event on April 22, 2023 for Our Lady of the Prairie Church at 200 E. Church Street.
- Approved Resolution 23-020 A Resolution Receiving and Accepting the Facility Plan for the WWTF.
- Approved Resolution 22-021 Authorizing Bolton and

Menk to proceed with Design Phase of Waste Water Treatment Facility Project.

- Approved Resolution 23-022 Authorizing Preliminary Report for the Proposed 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project and the City of Belle Plaine, Minnesota.
- Approved Resolution 23-001 Adopting Professional Appointments.

February 21, 2023

- Approved Regular Session Minutes of January 3, 2023.
- Approved Work Session Minutes of January 3, 2023.
- Approved Resolution 23-022 A Resolution Requesting the Advance of Municipal State Aid Funds for Municipal Construction Projects.
- Approved Resolution 23-023 Appointing Amber Noll as Office Assistant - Community Development effective on or after March 2, 2023.
- Approved Resolution 23-024 A Resolution Approving Terms of a ROSE Program Loan to Dale J. Otto and Lori B. Otto, Trustees Dale J. and Lori B. Otto Living Trust, 908 Main Street East.
- Approved Resolution 23-025 A Resolution Approving the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements Minnesota Anti-Heroin Task Force Program and Authorizing Execution Thereof.
- Approved Resolution 23-026 Adopting the Fire Department Take Home Vehicle Policy.
- Approved Authorize Purchase of a Silverado Truck to be used for the Fire Department.



The City of Belle Plaine is accepting Fire Department applications March 1 - 24. Applications are available at www.belleplainemn.gov.



Take a Walk in the Park Day
March 30, 2023



The City of Belle Plaine offers citizens and visitors 15 developed parks and over 13.5 miles of trails and 21.1 miles of sidewalk.

Registration Open Now!

Local League Baseball & Softball

Registration Deadline is April 12

Visit www.belleplainemn.gov
(click on Parks & Recreation Online Registration)

QR Code



The official newspaper for the City of Belle Plaine is the Henderson Independent. Public Notices are posted on the City website www.belleplainemn.gov and in the official newspaper. Watch City Council meetings live at www.belleplainemn.gov.

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AQUATIC FACILITY

OPENS

Sat., June 3

(Weather Permitting)

203 West Prairie Street

Kick-Off Party

Friday, June 2 | 5 - 7 p.m.

Join the Aquatic Center Staff for a free event with games, inflatables, & treats on the east side of the building.

SWIM LESSONS

Online pre-registration for City of Belle Plaine residents begins **Monday, April 3** at www.belleplainemn.gov.

Walk-in & non-resident registration begins **Wednesday, April 12** at City Hall or on-line. 218 North Meridian Street



S.W.A.T.T. RUN

(SPRINTERS, WALKERS, AND TRASH TALKERS)

Saturday, April 29, 2023

at Heritage Park

5K: 10:00 AM

Zero-K: 11:00 AM

Kids Run: 11:15 AM

Register on the event page at www.belleplainemn.gov

March 2023 Government Calendar

6	Design Committee	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:00 p.m.
	Work Session	6:15 p.m.
8	Public Works	3:00 p.m.
13	EDA	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
14	Public Safety	7:30 a.m.
20	Parks Commission	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:00 p.m.
	Work Session	6:15 p.m.

Beginning March 6, 2023 City Council Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

