CITY OF WATKINS

Box 306

Watkins, MN 55389

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is posted on the City of Watkins’ web page at **www.cityofwatkins.com** as well as other informational items and the events calendar.

**The City is asking all property owners to help keep the City storm sewer system from getting clogged by not blowing any grass clippings, leaves or dirt into the street. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.**

**The Public Works Department will be trimming all trees that are blocking view of traffic at intersections and any tree limbs which are close to the surface of a sidewalk or street as to constitute a danger to pedestrians or vehicles. If you would rather trim the trees yourself please contact City Hall at 764-6400 by October 31st.**

**Winter Parking Regulations:**

**Snow Removal and Parking; Fines.** (B) No person shall park a vehicle in the Central Business District on Central Avenue between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., November 1 to April 1. Vehicles found parked or abandoned in the Central Business district on Central Avenue in violation of this provision shall be cited by the Sheriff’s Department. The first offense shall be a $25 fine; the second offense shall be a $50 fine; recurring offenses shall be a $100 fine. Owners of vehicles so cited shall pay the fine to the City Clerk. If the fines are not paid within ten (10) days of the date of the citation, the violation may be prosecuted as a petty misdemeanor.

 (C) On all other city streets, a parking ban shall go into effect at 12:00 a.m. when a night snow (one inch or more) occurs. This parking ban shall remain in effect until the streets are plowed and cleared of snow. The first offense shall be a $25 fine; the second offense shall be $50 fine; recurring offenses shall be a $100 fine.

**REMINDER: LAND USE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

Land Use Permits are required in the City for all permanent and non-permanent accessory structures. This includes sheds of all sizes made of plastic, metal, pre-built, stick-built, etc. There is no exception for a 120 sq. ft. or smaller structure. Accessory buildings made of tarp, cloth, canvas, etc. also require a permit and cannot exceed 300 sq. ft. Permits are also required for decks, pools, fences, additions, all new construction, moving in a structure of any kind, etc.

If you are unsure if a permit is needed, please call City Hall at 764-6400 before starting a project. Anyone starting work without a permit will be charged a penalty of $250.00.

Reminder – A & A Recycling has provided a recycling container free of charge for residents of the city to dispose of their recyclable products i.e. household appliances, air conditioners, water heaters and other items. **Televisions and computer monitors are not accepted.** Please contact City Hall at 764-6400 for an appointment time to drop off your recyclables or if you have questions as to what is accepted.

**Fire Prevention.** The burning of leaves will only be permitted from September 15 through November 15 this fall. No burning shall take place until a burning permit is issued from designated members of the Watkins Fire Department. Permits shall be for a period of no longer than two weeks. Burning of rubbish, trash, or other material is prohibited.

Violation of the above Ordinance shall be a misdemeanor which will be assessed a penalty.

**City of Watkins Planning and Zoning Ordinance regarding:**

**Parking & Storage of Any Vehicles** without current license plates or unlicensed must be stored in an enclosed building. Parking of recreational vehicles/automobiles etc. in the front yard setback area of a residential zone is prohibited with the exception of on a paved driveway. Boats and trailers, less than 20 feet in length, must be stored in the rear yard and be placed a minimum of at least 10 feet from the property line.

**Exterior Storage.** In residential districts all materials and equipment shall be stored within a building or fully screened so as not to be visible from adjoining properties. In commercial and industrial districts open storage of materials in any required front, side, or rear yard shall be prohibited and any outdoor storage shall be screened so as not be to visible from any class of residential district.

**Water/Sewer Utility Policy.** The City bills monthly for water/sewer usage and these bills are due on the 25th of each month, (no matter if it is a holiday, Saturday, or Sunday) or any day prior to this date. **If the bill is not paid by the 25th of the month, a late fee is added to the bill, so please pay on time. Any delinquent water/sewer bill is subject to disconnection if not paid by the due date. A $200.00 reconnection fee must be paid before water can be turned on again.** If after hours an additional $50.00 will be charged.

**PETS AND LICENSES**

All dogs and cats need to be licensed annually. The fee is $5.00 and the annual renewal date is August 1st. Licenses are available at City Hall and proof of current vaccinations for rabies and distemper are required. Owners are responsible for their pets which are required to be on a leash and on your property. Please don’t allow your pet to become a nuisance to your neighbors by running at large, pooping/urinating on neighbor’s property or constantly barking. When walking your dog, you are responsible for picking up any droppings they leave and a fine of $10.00 will be enforced if you are caught not picking up after your pet.

**Reminder of Public Notification Sign Up Form.** Please complete and return the form to City Hall. If you need the form, please contact City Hall or you can print it from the City’s website at www.cityofwatkins.com/applicationsforms.html.

**Upcoming City Hall office hours:** City Hall will be closed Monday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday. City Hall will close at noon Tuesday, December 24th and be closed Wednesday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday.

The City of Watkins has a vacancy on the Board of Adjustments. Applications are available at City Hall.

If you have any questions or comments for the City, office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. City Hall phone number is (320) 764-6400; fax number is (320) 764-6401; email: cityofwatkins@gmail.com.