

**CITY OF WATKINS**  
**BOX 306**  
**WATKINS, MN 55389**

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**SPRING NEWSLETTER**  
2022



This Newsletter is posted on the City of Watkins' web page at [www.cityofwatkins.com](http://www.cityofwatkins.com) as well as other informational items and the events calendar.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MAILED AS A SERVICE TO ALL RESIDENTS TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE CITY. PLEASE READ IT IN ITS ENTIRETY SO YOU ARE AWARE OF SOME BASIC INFORMATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS. THANK YOU.**

**Water/Sewer Utility Policy.** The city bills monthly for water/sewer usage. **Bills are always due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month**, (no matter if it is a holiday, Saturday, or Sunday) or any day prior to this date. **PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE PAYMENT STUB WITH YOUR PAYMENT SO YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE PROPERLY CREDITED. If the bill is not paid by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 reconnected after hours, an additional \$50.00 will be charged.

**Watkins 2021 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report** is available online. This report can be viewed at [www.cityofwatkins.com/uploads/2/2/1/7/22172496/ccr\\_report\\_pws\\_1470010\\_2021.pdf](http://www.cityofwatkins.com/uploads/2/2/1/7/22172496/ccr_report_pws_1470010_2021.pdf). A paper copy of this report is available upon request.



**Even if they say "flushable,"  
disposable wipes will clog pipes.**

**Prevent costly backups and place wipes in trash - Flush only toilet paper – NO OTHER PAPER PRODUCTS.**

- Wipes may be labeled "flushable," but they don't degrade in the system. Flushing them is like flushing a handkerchief or other item made of cloth.
- Our sewer systems and treatment plants were not designed to handle wipes. They gum up the system, clog pipes and pumps, and cost taxpayers and residents lots of money in additional maintenance costs.
- If you must use wipes, put them in the trash, not the toilet!
- Many homeowners have experienced plumbing problems because of wipes, so you may have expensive maintenance issues at home if you flush them.

**Reminder** – all signs (garage sale, campaign, etc.) must stay off city street right-of-way and state highway right-of-way.

**Land Use Permits** \*\* If you plan to do any building or additions to existing structures, erecting fences, moving in a structure, etc., please contact City Hall for information and permits. **Penalty fee – The penalty fee in all Zoning Districts for starting work before an approved Land Use Permit is obtained shall be four (4) times the Permit Fee.** This fee would be in addition to the Land Use Permit fee.

**\*\*If you plan to reside, reroof, install new windows or replace doors in your home, you do not need a permit for that. The City does allow metal roofing on residential properties, however, be aware that only standing seam metal roofing systems are allowed. If you install anything other than a standing seam metal roofing system, you will have to remove it. \***

**PERMITS ARE REQUIRED TO OPERATE A MOTORIZED GOLF CART WITHIN THE CITY OF WATKINS.** A Permit Application may be obtained at City Hall. The Permit fee is \$10.00 and expires 3 years from date of issuance. Any person in violation of Section 70.03 of the Municipal Code of the City of Watkins, MN (Motorized Golf Carts) shall be penalized according to Section 70.99 of the same code.

**Swimming Pools.** All outdoor swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a security fence or wall at least 4 ft. but not more than 6 ft. high and be located no less than 4 ft. from the edge of the pool. The bottom of the fence or wall shall be no higher than 4 inches above the surface of the ground. Fence openings or points of entry to the pool area shall be equipped with self-closing/self-latching lockable gates. A **Land Use Permit** is required for all pools & fences. \*\*

**Filling swimming pools** – Anyone wanting a pool filled by the Watkins Fire Department will need to contact City Hall during regular business hours to make arrangements. Please do not contact a member of the Fire Department directly. The cost to fill a pool for a City Resident is \$25.00 plus current cost of water per 1,000 gallons. If the pool doesn't require the estimated and paid for amount, the extra monies will be applied to the resident's utility bill. Payment for the pool fill will be due before it can be filled. Pools will only be filled by the Fire Department on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evening of the month. If you plan to fill your pool yourself, be aware that your water bill may increase substantially.

**Parking Regulations.** (A) No recreational vehicle, camper, travel trailer, camper top, boat, boat trailer or motor home shall be stored or parked for more than 48 hours on any city street. Provided, however, that during such 48-hour period, such vehicle shall not be occupied as living quarters. No automobile shall be parked for more than 72 hours on any city street or parking lot.\*\*

**Anyone bringing leaves or brush to the brush site MUST take all bags and/or containers back with them. PCA regulations do not allow bags and/or containers to be left at the brush site. If the City finds bags or containers at the brush site, it will discontinue this service or an extra fee will be added to the water bills to cover the additional expense incurred by the Maintenance Department to dispose of these bags or containers.**

**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.**

**Grass Clippings and Yard Waste** pick up provided by the city will begin in May on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month until early November. Please have your brush materials and clippings properly bagged or bundled curb side by 7:00 a.m. Grass clippings and leaves must be in bags weighing no more than 30 pounds. Brush, sticks, and small branches must be tied in bundles no longer than 4 feet long and must not weigh more than 30 pounds. No boxes of brush material will be accepted. This is a free service offered to city residents. Brush materials not complying with the above rules will not be picked up. If you have a large quantity of brush to pick up, prior arrangements must be made with the city and a rate of \$100.00 per hour for truck and equipment use will apply. **If you wish to haul your own brush material, arrangements must be made with City Hall AT LEAST ONE DAY IN ADVANCE by calling 764-6400.**

The burning of leaves is only permitted from April 10 through May 15 and September 15 through November 15 of each year. 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. \*\*

**Water from Sump Pumps.** (Quoted from Watkins City Code of Ordinances §51.37 (B)) It shall be **unlawful to discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal sewer system**, either directly or indirectly, any roof, storm, surface or ground water, or water from any type of private drainage system, or **discharge from sump pumps**, and all similar kinds of water discharge of whatever kind or nature. Water discharged from a water air conditioning system may not be discharged into the municipal sewer system, unless a permit allowing such discharge is issued by the Council. **The additional cost to treat this water may be passed on in rate increases to all City residents and businesses.**

**Watkins Swimming Pool** – The pool may be opening around the first week in June, weather permitting. Watch the local newspaper and our website for information on opening date and schedules as they become available. The pool may close for the season in mid to late August at City Council discretion.

**Pet Reminder - Please clean up after your pet(s) while you are walking them, whether on property of others or public property. Please keep your own property clean of pet litter as well.** Please be a responsible pet owner and considerate neighbor and don't allow your dog to bark excessively while it is outside and abide by the City Ordinance. Thank you.

**Please** pull your garbage cans back from the sidewalk and street right-of-way once they are emptied as a courtesy to everyone using the sidewalks and streets.

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](mailto:cityofwatkins@gmail.com).

\*\*Quoted from Code of Ordinances and Zoning Ordinance.

## **ANNUAL NOTICE – For Military Personnel – Minn. Stat. § 325E.028**

Minnesota law requires that customers and utilities make utility payment arrangements for military service personnel in the following situation. If a member of a household has been issued orders into active duty, deployment, or change in duty station and the residential customer meets specific income criteria, the Watkins City utility must not disconnect the utility service of that qualifying residential customer due to nonpayment.

An application for a utility payment agreement must include copies of income statements and proof of military orders as described in the law. The Watkins City utility may shut off utility service for nonpayment if an application does not include the required copies of income statements and proof of military orders as required by Minn. Stat. § 325E.028.

If you would like a copy of this law, please contact the city utility at 320-764-6400.