

# CITY OF WATKINS

BOX 306

WATKINS, MN 55389

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## OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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.

**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 25<sup>th</sup>.**

### 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.

**Land Use Permits Required.** 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. **Anyone beginning work or moving in a structure without obtaining a Land Use Permit prior to starting will be charged a penalty fee of \$250.00 for Residential/Agricultural zones and \$500.00 for Commercial/Industrial zones.** This fee would be in addition to the Land Use Permit fee.

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 to be 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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 \$150.00 reconnection fee must be paid before water can be turned on again.** If after hours an additional \$50.00 will be charged.

**Grass Clippings and Yard Waste** pick up provided by the City on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month until November 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 the citizens of Watkins. 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.**

## PETS AND LICENSES

All dogs and cats need to be licensed annually. The fee is \$5.00 and the annual renewal date is August 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.



The General Election will be held Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Residents of the city will vote at Village Hall, 110 Central Avenue South. If you are unable to vote at the polls on Election Day you may vote early by absentee ballot in person at Meeker County Courthouse or by mail. If you have questions about voting early in person or by mail, please contact the Meeker County Auditor's office at 320-693-5212.

**Upcoming City Hall office hours:** City Hall will be closed Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday. City Hall will close at noon Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and be closed Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas holiday.

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).