



**MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022
6:00 PM IN THE 2ND FLOOR BOARD ROOM
CITY HALL**

Work Session Opened: 6:08 PM

In Attendance: Mayor Louismet, Councilmembers Walsh, Hughes, Jones, Edberg and Engstran. City Manager Crawford, Finance Director Kindsvater and Assistant City Manager Juba.

Staff summarized the 2023 preliminary non-general fund operating budgets and fee schedule and answered questions from the Mayor and City Council. Non-general fund budgets include American Rescue Plan Aid (ARPA), Surface Water, Marina, Sports Center, Water, Sewer, Refuse, Ambulance, Pioneer Manor, License Bureau, and the Community Reinvestment Fund.

Discussion on other governmental entities' role in surface water treatment pointed out that the Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Board of Soil and Water Resources, Army Core of Engineers, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency all have some role in stormwater treatment. In addition to those entities, the City must comply with State of Minnesota MS4 permitting requirements. The permitting requirements, along with the City's general concern over water quality, drive the need for funding through the City's surface water management fee. The consensus of the City Council was to continue with staff's phased approach to full implementation of the commercial surface water management fee.

Staff discussed a proposal to have separate fees in the City's marina for residents and non-residents. Based on discussion, the draft 2023 fee schedule will include a non-resident marina slip rental fee of \$2,800 and the fee for City of White Bear Lake residents will remain at \$2,500.

The 2023 water rates will increase to cover water production costs and operations. As water conservation in the City improves, costs to produce clean water continue to increase. Staff is analyzing the fee structure; therefore, it will remain the same in 2023 as it was in 2022. The residential water infrastructure fee will increase from \$6/quarter to \$11/quarter and the commercial water infrastructure fee will increase from \$21/quarter to \$30/quarter. Fees for consumption will also continue to increase as the City has traditionally had low water consumption rates comparative to other municipalities.

Tipping fees from the Ramsey / Washington Recycling and Energy Center are increasing 18.84% in 2023. These are the fees the City pays for trash disposal and will cause an increase in monthly garbage / recycling pick up fees.

Final versions of all 2023 budgets and the fee schedule will be presented at the December 13, 2022 regular City Council meeting for final review and adoption.

Work Session Adjourned: 8:30 PM

