**CITY OF ELLSWORTH NEWSLETTER December 2018**

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**Seasons’ Greetings from City Hall**

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With the holidays, comes a time of celebration. An appreciation of those that help others; a time of giving; a time of happiness. I want to share what an individual has done for the past several years.

An individual that was born in the City of Ellsworth, but no longer lives here, keeps track of the this community. This individual takes pride in this community. For several years, this individual has given a donation to be placed on a water bill to a family that he does not even know; to help another with a generous gift. This individual does not want to be recognized by name and chooses to be silent; hoping that the gift will help out another. This individual realizes that the holiday season is not about receiving gifts, but about giving. This individual is a humble and kind.

The City of Ellsworth should be very proud to call this individual one of their own. On behalf of the City of Ellsworth and this community, thank you goes out to this individual for your continued love, caring and generosity. You have made it a bit easier for a family this holiday season.

Many people struggle this time of year… keep it local & help a family or individual out. If anyone else would like to give a “silent donation” to a property owner in need; which, is applied directly onto a water/sewer bill, contact the City Clerk. A receipt will be written to the person who was so generous to give & it shall be kept confidential, if you so wish.

**If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.**

**- Napoleon Hill**

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Congratulations to Tasha Domeyer (Mayor), Colette Smythe and Paul Snyder (new city council members) for being elected to serve your community, beginning in January 2019.

Newly elected council members Colette Smythe and Paul Snyder will be replacing Glenn Meester (14 years) and Spencer Swanson (4 years). Thank you for your service.

**It’s the holiday season, SO SHOP LOCAL!!! The City of Ellsworth has many downtown businesses that have great gifts for anyone on your list! BIG gifts or last minute gifts!!! SHOP LOCAL!!!**

The Cell Tower is up & running!!!

**SNOW PLOWING STREETS WITH VEHICLE REMOVAL ~** please remove vehicles off of the city streets so that the city employees can do their job to remove the snow or you may be ticketed/towed. A link to the City Streets Department Snow Removal Policy is located on the City webpage for your viewing. [**www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org**](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org)

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** The City of Ellsworth can prohibit the deposit of snow on the street from private property owners. Essentially the city can clear the snow from the street. If the individual property owner choses to have a parking lot or spaces (or driveway) then they would be responsible for removing the snow on that area.  Even if it is snow that the city pushes there in the process of cleaning the street.  For instance, your driveway.  **But the property owner does not have the right to take this snow and move it back to the street or to move snow from their private property to the street.**  Please be patient. Snow removal does take time.

Also, to those of you who have chosen rural route for your mail, please remember that it is your responsibility for snow removal around the mailbox and in front of your mailbox in the winter so that your mail can be delivered in a timely manner.

Also, with snow brings snowmobiles. Please adhere to the City of Ellsworth Snowmobile Ordinance, Chapter 6; respect others property while you are enjoying your ride. If you have a problem with snowmobiles on your property, please contact the Nobles County Sheriff’s Office at (507)295-5400. Please review this ordinance that has been added to the Ellsworth web page:

**Section 605 – Snowmobiles, All Terrain Vehicles, Go-Carts and Recreational**

**Vehicles. (This ordinance also includes Golf Carts):** [**www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org**](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org)

Schaap Sanitation Garbage and Recycling may or may not have an increase which is NOT set by the City of Ellsworth. New rates begin in January of 2019 to be billed in February of 2019. Please click on the 2019 recycling/garbage link for the 2019 Calendar on the city webpage [**www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org**](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org)

If you would like a calendar mailed to you, please contact the City Clerk’s Office.

After much discussion, review of expenses that have been incurred in the past, and projecting future expenses and repairs, the Council has approved an increase in rates. Sewer and water rates beginning January 1, 2019 and billed to you in February of 2019 for the year 2019 shall be as follows:

**Rates for 2018 include:** **Rates for 2019 include:**

Water 0 – 1000 gallons **base** fee: $12.50 $13.50

After the first 1000 gallons $1.30 $ 1.40

Sewer **base** fee $22.00 $22.25

Depending on water usage, for those of you who do NOT exceed the 1000 gallons per month (minimum), the base fee (using current Schaap Sanitation 2018 rates), would be $54.56 per month. An increase of $15.00 dollars per year; $1.25 dollars per month; $0.29 cents per week; $0.04 cents per day.

With the additional income of $1.25 per home x 250 hook-ups x 12 months, the amount would be a total of $3,750.00. ($3,000.00 for water and $750.00 for sewer).

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**The Ellsworth Burn site** is *only* to be used for the residents of the City of Ellsworth. It is to be used *only* for trees, leaves, brush, branches, or garden debris. The City of Ellsworth employees are *only* to start a fire at the dump site. The gates will be left open daily unless it is misused. Regulations will be posted on the gate and the fine thereof. Please use common sense when it is wet. ABSOLUTELY NO GARBAGE OR PAINTED/VARNISHED WOOOD ACCEPTABLE or any wood with nails in it. There are piles for each kind of debris and the piles are marked. Please adhere to putting your debris in the correct piles. The MN Department of Natural Resource checks our tree dump periodically. Absolutely no garbage bags full of leaves or garden debris. Empty out debris on the correct pile **and dispose of your own garbage bags**. The city will be fined by the MN DNR and possible closure of the dump if the rules are NOT followed. This last year, a burn site at a different city in Minnesota was closed down… let this NOT happen to Ellsworth!!!

If you see a street light that is out, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at: 507-967-2373 or send an email to: **cityofellsworthmn@gmail.com**

Watch the Ellsworth Facebook page (Like us on Facebook: City of Ellsworth, Minnesota) and, the City website [www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org](http://www.ellsworth.mn.citygovt.org) for updated information.

If you do not use the internet and would like a hard copy of any information, please contact the City Clerk.

Wishing each and every one of you a very glorious Holiday Season!

 ~ The Ellsworth City Council