

The Arlington Report

TWO FILE FOR MAYOR, FOUR FILE FOR TWO COUNCIL MEMBER POSITIONS

The filing period for Mayor and City Council closed Tuesday evening, August 17 with six candidates filing for Arlington's three open City Council seats. Incumbent Mayor Jim Kreft seeks reelection and will be challenged by Bruce Anderson. Incumbent Councilman Curt Reetz seeks one of two open positions against fellow filers Jason Ruehling, Jennifer Nuesse and Cheryl Rovinsky. Current Councilman Mike Vrklan did not file for reelection after two terms and twelve years of service on the City Council. Voters will decide their candidates at the November 2 General Election.

18th ANNUAL HARVEST EVENT

The Arlington Area Ambulance Association invites you to attend their 18th Annual Harvest Event fundraiser. The Event will take place on **Friday, September 17**, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Please note that some of the tickets sent out are incorrect stating that the event will take place on Friday, *September 18*. The event will consist of a hog roast dinner with all of the trimmings including refreshments. Music will be furnished by the Rhythm Kings Band for your dancing and/or listening enjoyment. Most residents should have received a family dinner ticket and two raffle chances in the mail. A \$15 donation is required if interested in attending. Please return your donation and raffle chances at either the Arlington State Bank, Y-NOT Plumbing and Heating, or you can give it to any ambulance member. Tickets will also be available at the door. The money raised from this event will be used towards the purchase of a stair chair. The Arlington, Green Isle, and Sibley East Lions Clubs will be sponsoring a free diabetes screening in conjunction with the Arlington Ambulance Harvest event. Arlington Cub Scout Pack 140 will again help with the tables and will be selling desserts during the Event. The Arlington Area Ambulance Association wants to thank you in advance and look forward to seeing you at the event on the 17th! Take out is available.

REMINDER TO PROPERTY OWNERS ON LONG GRASS

City Staff would like to remind property owners that City Ordinance 195 states that any noxious weed or excessive growth of weeds and grasses measuring 12 inches or more in height is considered a public nuisance and is prohibited. With all the rain recently, yards are growing fast and city

staff is receiving more and more complaints on unkempt lawns. While the City does its best to identify these unkempt lawns, most properties that are in violation of Ordinance 195 are identified by public complaints. Property owners wishing to file a complaint against a property should do so in writing to the Police Department or City Hall.

NEW ORDINANCE DEALS WITH SETBACKS WITHIN THE B-1 DISTRICT

The Arlington City Council recently adopted Ordinance 251, a zoning ordinance that addresses setbacks within the B-1 Service Business District. The purpose of the ordinance is to promote the public safety, health and welfare of the city by repealing the current setback requirements and replacing them with a new standard. Height regulations within the B-1 District remain unchanged with no structure allowed to exceed two and one-half (2 1/2) stories or thirty-five (35) feet in height with exceptions. Front yard setbacks have been reduced from a depth of sixty (60) feet to a depth of thirty (30) feet. Ordinance 251 now requires a side yard setback at a depth of ten (10) feet, except that a "buffer yard" will be required for any lot having a common lot line with a lot located in any residential district. The "buffer yard" will have to be approved by the Planning Commission and must have a width of at least fifteen (15) feet. The "buffer yard" must feature screening, such as a privacy fence or some sort of vegetative cover, sufficient to lessen the view of the business from the adjoining residential lot. All rear yard setbacks should be at a depth of twenty (20) feet, except that a "buffer yard" will be required for any lot having a common lot line with a lot located in any residential district. The "buffer yard" requirements are the same for a rear lot as that of a side lot. Ordinance 251 also regulates lot coverage by stating that no more than fifty (50) percent of a lot shall be occupied by buildings. A complete copy of the ordinance can be read online or viewed at City Hall.

SIBLEY COUNTY FAITH IN ACTION'S ANNUAL CHILI & SOUP FEED

Sibley County Faith in Action's Annual Chili & Soup Feed is scheduled to take place Friday, September 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch) and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (dinner) at the Arlington Community Center. The cost of the meal is a free will donation. Brownie Sundaes will be available for dessert (\$2) and take out is available to everyone! Proceeds from the event will go to support and expand services at Sibley County Faith in Action.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Jim Pederson -- Council Member
Bob Pichelmann -- Council Member
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Mike Vrklan -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- Council Member

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Matt Jaunich -- City Administrator
Dennis Schultz -- EDA Director
Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk
Vicki Pomplun -- Admin. Ass't
Lana Woehler -- Community Center Coordinator
Dan Thomes -- Streets/Parks Supt.
Jeff Paine -- Maintenance Worker
Bruce Rovinsky -- Chief of Police
Scott Bennett -- Police Officer

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Ross Arneson -- City Attorney
Cynthia Smith-Strack -- Planning & Zoning Consultant
Darin Haslip -- Building Inspector
People Service -- Water/Wastewater
Joel Hawbaker (Bolton & Menk) -- City Engineer

PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall: 964-2378
Fax Line: 964-5973
After-Hours On-Call:
507-327-6601
Fire Garage: 964-2279
Police Dept: 964-5200
Library: 964-2490
Hospital: 964-2271
S.E. School: 964-2292
Post Office: 964-5503

OTHER SERVICES

Water/Sewer/Electric Services
City of Arlington (964-2378)
Gas Service
CenterPoint Energy (800-245-2377)
Cable Service
Mediacom (800-332-0245)
Internet/Phone Service
Frontier (800-435-1504)
Garbage Services
Waste Management (800-422-5785)
TCW (877-685-3815)
Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-800-6244)

City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:
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Arlington, MN 55307

Phone: 507-964-2378
Fax: 507-964-5973
E-mail: cityhall@arlingtonmn.com



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



CITY'S FISCAL CONDITION REMAINS HEALTHY

The City, back in April, received its 2009 audit report. Here are a few observations from the audit report (Dollar amounts as of 12/31/09): **General Fund** - The General Fund is the primary operating fund for the City. The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund (Debt Service, Enterprise, etc.). The financial condition of the General Fund remains healthy with a balance of \$745,102, an increase of \$187,220 from 2008. The General Fund balance of \$745,102 is necessary because the City derives approximately 85% to 90% of its revenues from property taxes and Local Government Aid (LGA), which are received only twice during the year - July and December, and provides a safe-guard against potential revenue shortages and/or unexpected expenditures throughout the year. With that being said, the City ended the year with a General Fund balance at 54% of the 2009 actual expenditures. This is somewhat higher than normal from what is recommended by the State Auditor. The State Auditor recommends that Cities maintain a General Fund balance in the range of 35% to 50%. However, the large increase did offset a loss in the general fund in 2008. **Special Revenue Funds** - Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. Basically, revenue from a specific fund should pay for the expenses in that fund. Special Revenue Funds for the City consist of funds like the fire and ambulance, cemetery, EDA, revolving loan, and community center. After General Fund transfers of \$305,220, the special revenue fund balances increased from \$578,153 in 2008 to \$786,313 in 2009. **Capital Project Funds** - Capital Project Funds are used to account for the acquisition or construction of facilities, infrastructure and equipment. The Capital Project Fund balances decreased in 2009 to \$138,447, down from \$608,228 the previous year. The large decrease was due to expenses related to the 2008 Improvement Project. The rest of the fund balance is designated for future projects or capital acquisitions. **Debt Service Funds** - Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of revenues for, and payment of, long-term debt principal, interest and related costs. Much of the City's debt is due to street, utility, and building improvements. The City's total debt increased by \$690,000 (36.6%) in 2009. The increase was due to a \$850,000 G.O. Bond for street/utility improvements.

Existing fund balances, combined with annual tax and assessment levy amounts, are sufficient to satisfy 2010 debt service requirements. **Enterprise Funds** - The City's Enterprise Funds consist of the electrical, water and sewer revenues and expenditures. The intent of these funds is that the costs of providing goods and services to the general public should be paid for by user fees and not taxes. The water and sewer funds saw a slight increase in their fund balance while the electric fund lost money in 2009. The water fund saw its fund balance increase from \$16,994 in 2008 to \$17,099 in 2009, only after a general fund transfer of \$25,000. The sewer fund increased from \$220,071 in 2008 to \$480,619 in 2009. The electric fund balanced decreased from \$1,695,123 in 2008 to \$1,575,249 in 2009. Contact City Offices for a complete copy of the City Audit or view the full version on the city's website.

THE WHO, WHAT AND HOW OF A WIND TURBINE OPERATION

In an effort to create a better understanding of how and when the wind turbine will spin, the City of Arlington and MMPA has released the following summary of how the wind turbine actually operates:

- The turbine will remain stationary (will not spin) until wind speeds reach 8 mph.
- At 8 mph, the nacelle begins to turn, or yaw, to keep the blades facing into the wind.
- Between 8 and 12 mph wind speeds, the wind turbine will start to spin at low speeds, or freewheel, but the generator is not engaged and no power is produced. While the turbine is "motoring", it is drawing energy from the grid to excite the generator field.
- At wind speeds of about 12 mph, the wind's force upon the blades is enough to make it spin up to generating speed. At generating speed, the blades spin at about 45 RPMs and the generator spins at about 1800 RPMs. Once the blades are spinning at generating speed, the generator engages and the unit starts making power.
- As wind speeds continue to increase, the wind turbines power output will increase. When the turbine is generating power, the blades will spin between 45 and 45.5 RPMs and the generator will spin between 1800 and 1820 RPMs.
- If for some reason, the blades start spinning above 50 RPMs or the generator starts spinning above 1935 RPMs, the turbine will shut itself down.
- If wind speeds drop below 12 mph, the wind turbine will keep spinning, or motoring, at generating speed for 10 minutes, then will return to freewheeling. When the turbine motors, it draws energy from the grid to keep the blades spinning.
- At wind speeds above 55 mph, the wind turbine will shut-down.
- The spoilers on the turbine are controlled by a hydraulic system. It requires high hydraulic pressure to keep the spoilers retracted during normal operation. The spoilers will deploy any time the turbine faults, is manually stopped, or loses hydraulic pressure. The high speed disc brake engages 15 seconds after the spoilers deploy, or immediately once the generator is below 500 RPMs. Thirty seconds after the turbine comes to a complete stop the spoilers retract automatically. The exception is when the turbine is stopped manually. If this occurs, the spoilers will retract upon resetting the turbine to automatic mode.