



Chaska City Hall Bulletin

"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"

Chaska City Hall

www.chaskamn.com

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City Continues Work on Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program

By Matt Podhradsky, City Administrator

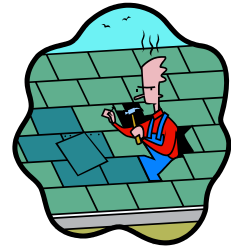
Over the past four months, the City of Chaska has been working on developing a comprehensive Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The purpose of this program is to not only look at how we prepare our infrastructure to accommodate the growth that we expect to see in the community over the next 20 years, but to also help us plan for how to properly reinvest back into the assets we have previously invested into. Through this process, we hope to ensure that our existing infrastructure is left in as good of condition for future generations as we see it now, and that we are ready for development opportunities that come our way. The final component of this CIP is to plan for the resources it will take to help us complete the visionary projects the City hopes to develop, which help to continue to improve the quality of life within our community.

To develop this program, the City has focused its attention on three primary areas based on their importance or priority:

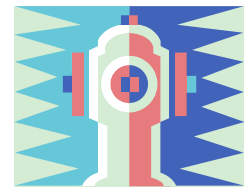
- **Priority #1 Projects:** This includes the proper reinvestment back into assets that already exist, making sure that we are good stewards of our existing infrastructure for future generations.
- **Priority #2 Projects:** These are infrastructure investments that will be needed to support planned new development in the community, ensuring that we have as robust of an infrastructure system in the new parts of our community as we have in our existing community.
- **Priority #3 Projects:** These are projects that are more "visionary" in nature, and would be developed to continue to improve on the quality of life in the community. Past projects completed by the City that would have fallen into this category include the Community Center and the Chaska Town Course. These are not projects that would be absolutely necessary, but the quality of life in our community would not be as good without them.

Through the initial stages of putting together this CIP, the City has determined that properly funding and completing projects within the categories of Priority #1 and Priority #2 are essential.

Priority #1 projects would include things such as seal coating and overlaying of roads on a regular schedule to ensure we get the full life out of our roads, replacing/rebuilding things such as park shelters and playground equipment that are in disrepair, or replacing things such as sewer or water lines that have outlived their useful life.



Priority #2 projects would include building things such as roads, water towers, sewer and water pipes, and parks needed to serve the newly developing areas of our community. Priority #2 projects are unique in that most of the infrastructure needed for new development is paid for through development fees such as water and sewer connection charges and parkland dedication fees to ensure that existing residents do not have to pay for the services they already have. These projects will primarily serve those new residents in the community.



Priority #1 projects are different in that we are replacing something that is already in existence. For our utility systems, regular replacement needs have been built into our utility rates, ensuring that we have enough resources allocated to keep our systems in good order as we move into the future. However, for our tax -supported services, the City has not always properly funded itself to be able to address these on-going replacement needs. To view this as a necessity, and fund this at proper levels, would require additional revenue support to allow this to occur.



Through this CIP process, it has been quantified that if we were to fund these top two priority groups, it would take an additional \$1 million in resources annually. If we were to fund this, and implement this over a four-year period, this would have an impact to the average valued home in the community (which is currently valued at around \$200,000) of \$100 annually. The City would look at implementing this over a four- year period, which would have the annual impact in each of the 4 years for this average home of \$25. Currently, the City of Chaska is 81st lowest out of 83 cities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area for tax levy per capita. If the City were to go in this direction, this would move Chaska from 81st lowest to 80th lowest out of all Twin Cities Communities for property tax levy per capita.

Besides these top two priorities, the City has also spent time talking about the importance of completing Priority #3 projects. These projects help us to continue to be able to move forward as a progressive community, and invest into those things that help improve our residents' and business' quality of life. The City began discussions on these types of projects at a Work Session held this past Monday night, looking at those projects that could have a large positive impact on the community and on our mission of being *"The Best Small Town in Minnesota"*. Through this discussion it was determined that these types of projects are important enough to the community that

attention should be paid to them. Our final Capital Improvement Document for the next 10-years will address the completion of some projects that fall into this category.

Over the summer months, the City Council will be going through a visioning and goal setting process, to help narrow down the actual projects that should be included in the final CIP Document, based on their ultimate vision of being a great small community. Through this process, they will be weighing the projects that will have the largest positive impact on the community, while balancing the proper amount of public investment it would take to complete these priority projects. The results of the Decision Resources Community Survey will also help guide the Council in this process. The City will keep residents informed during this process, and welcome any suggestions regarding projects that should be considered in this final document.

If anyone has questions about the Capital Improvement Program that is being developed by the City, or has questions or comments on the process or document, please feel free to contact City Administrator Matt Podhradsky at 952-227-7523. The City takes the job of planning for our future very seriously, and hopes that the final Capital Improvement Document will provide us with a good roadmap for the future.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month!

8th Annual Candlelight Vigil
 Thursday April 25, 2013
 7:00-8:30pm
 City Square Park
 Gazebo
 300 Chestnut Street
 Chaska, MN
 952-448-5425



THE DECISION RESOURCES COMMUNITY SURVEY PRESENTATION
 ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE APRIL 15TH COUNCIL MEETING
 HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO THE MONDAY, MAY 20TH CHASKA CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:00 PM.

JONATHAN GARAGE SALES
 Saturday, April 27th
 Starting at 8:00 am
 Pick up your garage sale map at the Kindergarten Center located on Village Road.



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, May 11 volunteer with Christmas in May—Chaska as we change the lives of our neighbors. We need both skilled and unskilled volunteers to help us rehabilitate the homes of Chaska residents who have neither the financial or physical ability to do so themselves.

To volunteer for part or all of the day, please call 952-361-5350.

The Public Works Crew, who have been out plowing and sanding, think we've had 2.2" of snow so far today. However, they could be delirious.

