



## Mayor's Message

We've made it through what are literally the darkest days of winter, and have warmer weather and longer days to look forward to. It's the time of year where I look forward to seeing my neighbors as they come outside to take advantage of some of the first warm days of the year. When we're catching up, my neighbors will share their thoughts and ask questions about issues which affect the City of Carver, which I'm always happy to answer.

Resident engagement, which includes listening to feedback from community stakeholders, is key to any thriving city. What surprises me the most in my role as Mayor is how little feedback I receive from residents. That said, I understand. We all have busy lives, and keeping tabs with everything that's going on in the City of Carver doesn't often rise to the top of our to-do lists.

As part of the 2020 budget, the City of Carver hired the Morris Leatherman Company to conduct a community survey. This telephone survey will gather data from 400 randomly selected households in the City of Carver using a mix of landline and cell phone numbers to connect with our community members. This sample selection will provide statistically sound feedback from residents on various topics including City services, which will benefit City Council and staff as we determine our priorities for 2021 and beyond. The survey will take place later this spring.

The code to resident engagement is something I've struggled to crack since being elected to serve on City Council in 2017. I am confident this survey will give us a really good indicator of how residents feel on various issues affecting the City of Carver so we can use this feedback to guide the decisions we make going forward.

Regardless if you're randomly chosen to participate in the community survey or not, I want to know where you stand on City issues. Please feel free to connect with me by phone (my cell phone number is 612-702-7703), email ([cjohnson@CityOfCarver.com](mailto:cjohnson@CityOfCarver.com)), or on Facebook ([@CarverMayorCourtney](https://www.facebook.com/@CarverMayorCourtney)). I look forward to hearing from you!



*Mayor Courtney Johnson*



*Mayor Courtney Johnson*





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### Key Contacts

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Chaska Community Center  
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## City Council Says "No" To Franchise Fees

Following several months of discussion, along with two resident listening sessions, the City Council voted unanimously to rule out franchise fees as a funding source for future street maintenance. As a part of the strategic plan, the City Council identified an initiative to study the use of franchise fees as a potential source of funding for the City's Street Maintenance Program. Franchise fees are a method of collecting funds from utility companies who use the City right-of-way.

The City Council will continue to review project scheduling, future state aid, management of budget, property taxes, and other alternatives to successfully complete future street maintenance projects in the City. The City Council will move forward with franchise agreements, with no fees, with cable television providers in Carver. Comcast and Jaguar Communications need franchise agreements, no fees will be included, in order to fulfill a telecommunications requirement with the State of Minnesota.

**Jonathan Carver Parkway/11 IMPROVEMENTS**

**March 18, 2020**  
**6:30 - 8 p.m.**  
**Carver Elementary**  
 1717 Ironwood Dr

Join us to learn more about the Jonathan Carver Parkway Improvements Project and share your comments!

[www.co.carver.mn.us/jcpimprovements](http://www.co.carver.mn.us/jcpimprovements)

# RESIDENT GUIDE: UTILITY RATES

## Proposed Utility Rates

City Council Meeting: Monday, March 16 at 7:00 PM



### 1 THE NEED: WATER TREATMENT AND CAPACITY

The City of Carver is a community that is likely to see continued growth in the coming years. With growth comes a fundamental responsibility of the City to provide services such as clean water to those new residents, businesses, and industries. The City currently has wells for water supply and a water treatment facility to filter and clean the water. The treatment facility was constructed years ago when Carver had a smaller population and demand for water was much less. The City's growth over the years has brought the demand for water close to the capacity of the existing water wells and water treatment facility.

About four years ago, the maximum amount of water needed by the community was about 70% of the current capacity of the treatment facility (about 1,200,000 gallons of water per day). Today, the maximum demand for water is getting closer to the available treated water supply.

As demand for water nears the City's capacity, it is important to consider how much water will be needed in the coming years and when expansion of the water treatment system is needed to provide this water. Using approximations for typical growth that may occur over time, we can expect the demand for water by the City of Carver community to exceed the available water supply by about 200% (or double the current capacity) in the next six to seven years. Looking farther ahead, in 15 years the demand for water will be close to triple the available treated water supply from current wells and the existing water treatment facility. As a result, it is necessary and very important to expand the water supply system to add wells and more treatment capacity. Current planning is underway to complete this expansion that will continue to serve the City with clean water for years to come.



### 2 THE INVESTMENT: NEW DEVELOPMENT AND EXISTING RESIDENTS

With several street and utility improvement projects on the horizon, the City hired an accounting firm to assist City staff in the preparation of a long-term financial plan. The plan outlines significant infrastructure projects needed through 2024, including the new water treatment plant in 2021. The plan further identifies the financial need and the impact to rates and fees paid by users. The analysis also ensures that neither new development nor existing residents pay more than their fair share for new improvement projects in Carver. The City Council uses the information contained within the long-term financial plan to establish project priorities, set budget expectations, and manage community needs.



The City is anticipating and planning for the construction of a fifth well and an additional water treatment facility in 2021. Preliminary estimates show the cost of a well to be \$1.1 million and a water treatment plant to be \$11 million, with the City Council recently directing staff to pursue all available cost saving measures.

The recently completed long-term financial plan determined increases are necessary to generate a positive cash flow to finance future system improvements and growth of these services. In addition to increasing rates, the long-term financial plan addresses the need to increase the Water Access Charge by \$603 in 2020 from \$7,547 to \$8,150. The Water Access Charge is primarily paid by developers of new housing, commercial, and industrial projects. The Water Access Charge ensures that new development is paying their fair share for needed infrastructure, including the new water treatment plant.

#### Water Rates per 1,000 Gallons

1,000 to 5,000	\$4.00
5,001 to 10,000	\$5.50
10,001 +	\$8.00
Base Fee	\$10.00

#### Proposed Water Rates per 1,000 Gallons

1,000 to 5,000	\$4.32
5,001 to 10,000	\$5.94
10,001 +	\$8.64
Base Fee	\$10.80



#### Sanitary Sewer Rates

Sanitary Sewer Rates are proposed to go from \$6.96 to \$7.24 per 1,000 gallons. Sanitary sewer usage during the months of January, February, and March are averaged, with the average usage in these months applied over the remaining twelve months to save homeowners from being billed sanitary sewer charges for lawn sprinkling and other outdoor water uses.

#### Storm Water Rates

Residential Storm Water rates are proposed to go from \$9.26 to \$9.54 per month. Storm water fees are used to construct and maintain roadside catch basins, construct and maintain underground piping, maintain storm water ponds, perform street sweeping operations, and so on.



*The example below represents 5,000 gallons of water and sanitary sewer use, along with the residential storm water rate. The result is an estimated \$4.08 increase for a 5,000 gallon user.*

#### Current Rate

**\$74.06**

#### Proposed Rate

**\$78.14**

*Below is an example of how the proposed connection fee change would impact new home construction.*

#### Current New Home Water Connection Fee

**\$7,547**

#### Proposed New Home Water Connection Fee

**\$8,150**