



508 SOUTH STATE STREET
WASECA, MINNESOTA 56093



CITY OF WASECA UTILITY DISCONNECTIONS – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Beginning Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021, the City of Waseca will resume utility disconnections for non-payment of past due utility bills and unpaid utility deposits. The City ceased disconnections in March of 2020 when the COVID pandemic began. Over the past year, we have continued to send past due letters every month to customers that are behind on their utility bill. We have encouraged customers to be proactive with their account by continuing to make payments or contacting the Utility Billing office if they need to set up and sign a payment plan. We have also provided a listing of assistance agencies with each past due notice mailing.

The City will focus on accounts with the highest past due balances first. As we reintroduce disconnections in March, installation of a 15 amp service limiter will be utilized. This device will only allow electric usage of up to 15 amps at any given time. If the customer exceeds electric usage of 15 amps, the limiter will fully interrupt electric service. The customer will then need to manually reset the limiter by flipping a switch on their electric meter. Instructions for operating the service limiter will be included with the disconnect notice mailing and are also on the side of the service limiter.

Beginning on Tuesday, April 27th, we will resume full utility disconnections. This means that the customer will have no electricity until payment has been made, as outlined in their notice of past due balance/disconnection.

These timelines are in effect as of the date this notice is posted. Should COVID mandates or an executive order from the Governor impact City utility operations, these timelines may be changed. Impacted customers would be notified by first class US mail. Please carefully read all correspondence from the City and be aware of your utility account status. If you have questions, please contact the Utility Billing office at (507)835-9718. Office hours are 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

WATER SERVICE CONNECTION FEE

If you have a water service connection to your property, your utility bill due March 15, 2021, will reflect a state mandated water service connection fee in the amount of \$9.72. Legislation that became effective July 1st, 1992, requires all public water systems in Minnesota to collect this fee on an annual basis as established per Minnesota Statute 144.3831.

Revenue from this fee is forwarded to the state and used to fund activities of the Minnesota Department of Health's Drinking Water Protection Program related to maintaining compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and protecting the health of all Minnesotans. These activities include sanitary surveys, sample collection and analysis, compliance determination, source water protection, enforcement, and various technical assistance services.

REMINDER!

UTILITY LATE FEES – IMPORTANT NOTICE

The City of Waseca has waived utility late fees on past due payments for the last ten months.

Beginning with the utility bills due April 15th, 2021, late fees will again be billed to accounts that remain unpaid after the due date.

If you have any questions, please contact the Utility Billing office at (507)835-9718.

THANK YOU!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE “NOTIFIED” OF CITY HAPPENINGS?

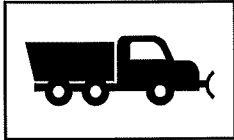
Stay Notified on City happenings. Get updates on Council meetings, Snow Emergencies, Utility Billing messages. Go to www.ci.waseca.mn.us and click on “Notify Me” and enter your information. Anytime something on the website gets posted, you will get an alert. Sign up for the items that interest you! Questions call 835-9741

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS NOTIFICATION OF THREATENING ADVERSE WEATHER

Based on the forecast of adverse weather and street conditions, there is the potential for plowable snow in the coming days. Please plan to remove all vehicles, trailers/implements, and garbage/recycle receptacles from City streets and alleys until snow has been cleared from curb to curb.

A snow emergency automatically exists following accumulation of approximately three (3) or more inches of snow. Additionally, a snow emergency may be declared based on adverse weather or adverse street conditions.

During a snow emergency, it is unlawful to park on streets and alleys until snow has been cleared from curb to curb.



The penalty for violating a snow emergency is a Police Department issued \$30.00 citation, and the vehicle will be towed if it is not removed within 24 hours after the issuance of the citation. All costs associated with the towing and impoundment fees shall be the responsibility of the vehicle owner.

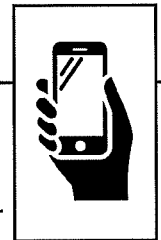
Vehicles parked overnight in the downtown "No Parking from 1 a.m.-5 a.m." zones, will be ticketed and towed immediately if a snow emergency is in effect.

For additional information, please reference City Ordinance Code 71.06, and Winter & Snow Street Policies as found through the links below.

<https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/mayor-city-council/pages/city-ordinance-code>

<https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/street-department/pages/winter-snow-street-policies>

The City of Waseca thanks you very much for your diligence and cooperation.



DON'T BECOME A VICTIM OF UTILITY SCAMS!

Utility phone scams generally involve receiving a phone call from someone claiming to represent your utility company. The caller typically threatens to shut off utility services unless the customer makes an immediate payment over the phone with a pre-paid debit card, gift card, or by wire transfer.

How to Avoid Becoming a Victim:

- **Hang Up.** If you have any doubt about whether or not the call is legitimate, hang up and call Waseca Utilities to verify your account status.
- **Report the Call.** Contact Law Enforcement or Waseca Utilities to report theft or attempted theft due to utility scams.
- **Be Wise.** NEVER give out personal data, bank account information, or debit/credit card numbers in response to an unsolicited phone call.

Waseca Utilities does not disconnect utility service without notifying you in writing by first class U.S. Mail. We will also never call you and demand payment by phone using a pre-paid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer. We encourage you to open any mail that you receive from Waseca Utilities and always be aware of your account status. If you have questions, please contact the Utility Billing office at (507)835-9718.

SCHEDULE YOUR PARK RESERVATIONS EARLY!

The City of Waseca will begin taking park reservations on March 1st. With the high demand for the park shelters, please don't wait to reserve your date! A paid park reservation is your guarantee of a shelter for your planned event. Pavilions/shelters are available from May through October and reservations are available on a four-hour or daily time frame. We have a variety of park shelters to rent for your planned events. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact City Hall at 835-9700 or stop in Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

HOUSE NUMBER REMINDER!

Address numbers for your residential home, must be at least four (4) inches in height, contrasting in color, placed in front, visible from street. This will also help any emergency personnel that may need to reach you!



EMERGENCY SIREN SYSTEM & SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

On the first Wednesday of each month at approximately 1:00 p.m., the emergency siren system is activated for testing. On Thursday, April 15, 2021, during Severe Weather Awareness week (April 12th to April 16th), the sirens will be activated twice during the day at 1:45 p.m. and at 6:45 p.m.

In the event of severe weather, activation of the emergency siren system means that Waseca County is in a TORNADO WARNING and a tornado has been observed by Law Enforcement, Skywarn Watchers and/or the National Weather Service. When you hear the outdoor warning system sirens, you should immediately go inside and seek shelter. Once indoors, go to the lowest level, most interior space in your home or office.

Outdoor warning sirens are located throughout the City of Waseca and by Lakeside Golf Course (north side of Clear Lake). People often have the misconception that the sirens are meant to be heard indoors. However, the system is intended to be heard outdoors. You may not hear it if you are inside or in noisy areas.

Residents need to pay attention to the weather, watch the television reports, or listen to the radio for weather updates. A wise investment would be a National Weather Radio which can be purchased at local retailers.

If you are interested in some ideas of how you can participate in Severe Weather Awareness Week, search Severe Weather Awareness Week to access the Minnesota Department of Public Safety website.



OVERHANGING TREE BRANCHES COULD YOUR TREE BE A POTENTIAL HAZARD?

Did you know that low overhanging tree branches can be a serious hazard? They can damage tall vehicles (school buses, street sweepers, snow plow and fire trucks) and make it hard to travel along the sidewalk for pedestrians and obscure a driver's ability to see around corners.

City Ordinance states tree branches overhanging any sidewalk or street shall have a clear space of eight (8) feet above a sidewalk and fourteen (14) feet above any street.

Please check your trees for ordinance violations and remove those branches accordingly. If you are unable to remove those obstructing branches yourself, please contact a local insured tree contractor.



For more information, please contact Brad Dushaw at 835-9727.

SHEDS / GARAGES

Thinking about adding a shed or garage to your property? Every detached accessory structure requires a Zoning Review, and any structure 120 square feet and larger requires a Building Permit. Properties within the Shoreland Overlay District of our 3 lakes have impervious surface restrictions per the DNR.

The structure should be of similar materials, design, and color to your existing house. There are also height and total square foot codes to follow. Required minimum setbacks from property lines vary by City Districts.



The City website has information available, or you can call or email the Community Development Department with questions at 507-835-9738 or billg@ci.waseca.mn.us

COMING SOON ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

Located at 100 19th Ave NW here in Waseca.

LEVEL 2 CHARGER

Planned Rate:
No connection fees
\$2 per hour

RAPID CHARGER

Planned Rate:
\$5 connection fee
\$0.30 per

CONSIDERING A HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT?

DON'T FORGET A BUILDING PERMIT!

Your project may require a building permit. Permits are required for new additions and remodeling, finishing a basement, re-roofing, re-siding, window replacement, decks, porches, plumbing, heating, electrical work, garages and more. Getting a building permit helps you to ensure that your project meets safety and building code standards; there is a penalty for starting construction prior to the issuance of a building permit. In addition to permits, please contact the Planning Department for information on set-back requirements, lot coverage, fences, shoreland regulations and other useful information. We encourage you to call with any questions about construction projects being considered or already in progress, at 835-9700.



BULLETIN BOARD

ELECTRIC CAPITAL FUNDING CHARGE

At their December 15, 2020 meeting, the Waseca City Council approved Resolution 20-67 establishing an Electric Capital Funding Charge. This charge will apply to all electric utility account holders. The purpose of these designated funds will be to continue with conversion of electric infrastructure from overhead to underground to improve long-term electric reliability for the Waseca community, as well as prepare for replacement and upgrading of our electric meters and metering system. This Electric Capital Funding Charge of \$2.00 per month will begin with the utility bills due 4-15-21.



COLD WEATHER PROTECTION PERIOD ENDS APRIL 15TH

April 15th marks the end of the Cold Weather Protection period. If you are having difficulty paying your utility bill, we encourage you to be proactive and contact the Utility Billing office at 835-9718 to discuss your account or to set up a payment plan. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

REMINDER!

As a courtesy to your City workers, and to streamline the work they need to do to keep the City looking beautiful, please keep these things in mind:

Try to keep your garbage cans out of the street – this will allow the snow plow to clean the entire street.

Please remember to keep your cars off the street so that the snowplow can pass freely in front of your home.

WASECA PEG CHANNEL 8

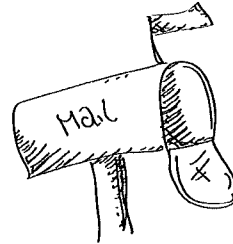
The local PEG (Public, Education, and Government) access television channel is operated by the City of Waseca and available to all Mediacom and Consolidated Communications cable subscribers. It is a free community resource that can be used by individuals and non-profit organizations to display both informative slides and video programming.



It is also where you can view the most current City Council meetings. The channel can be seen on channel 8, as well as, other digital channels depending on your cable package. If you would like more information on Waseca PEG Channel 8, stop by City Hall or call 835-9728.

SNOW PLOWING AND YOUR MAILBOX

Each year the City of Waseca Public Works Snowplow operators



attempt to clean the streets as close to the curb as possible without damaging mailboxes. Occasionally mailboxes get damaged. The City Snow and Ice Control Policy states how the City will handle any damage that may occur. When mailboxes are placed adjacent to the street it shall be the policy of the City that snow shall be plowed as close to

the curb to allow for passage of traffic and mail delivery. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to keep piled snow away from mailboxes so mail can be delivered.

Mailboxes should be constructed sturdily enough to withstand snow rolling off the plow or wing. When damage to the mailbox occurs, such damage shall be investigated by the Street Superintendent. If it is determined that that weight of the snow caused the damage, the City will not assume responsibility for repair of the mailbox. When evidence indicated that physical contact between the plow and the mailbox occurred, the City will assume responsibility for repair or replacement at a cost not to exceed \$30.00.

Please check your mailbox and replace or reinforce the post and bracing if needed.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT

The City of Waseca is asking customers to assist in keeping snow cleared away from fire hydrants. Please take a moment to locate the fire hydrant nearest your home and/or business and ensure that it is totally clear of snow. This will allow the Fire Department quick access in case of a fire. It also assists snowplow drivers in identifying where hydrants are located. If you are not able to clear snow away from your neighborhood hydrant, please call Waseca Utilities at 835-9718 or the Fire Dept. at 835-3210 and city personnel will clear the hydrant. We greatly appreciate your help in identifying and clearing away snow from the hydrants
Automatic Bank Pay Program

AUTOMATIC BANK PAY PROGRAM

Let Waseca Utilities take the work out of paying your utility bill each month! Sign up today for the Automatic Bank Pay program. Your monthly utility payment will automatically be withdrawn on the 15th of each month from either your checking or savings account



through a secured bank site and posted to your utility account. You will still receive a monthly paper utility bill. No more forgetting to make your payment by the 15th of the month, and no more late fees! Contact the Utility Billing office at 835-9718 to sign up today.