

AGENDA
CITY OF ISANTI
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL



- A. Call to Order**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Roll Call**
- D. Public Comment**

- E. Committee Meeting Items**
 - 1. Public Works Updates
 - 2. Water and Sewer Base Fee Charges Discussion
 - 3. Council Chambers Rental Discussion
 - 4. Goal Setting Meeting Date Discussion
 - 5. Farmer's Market Location Discussion
 - 6. Economic Development Authority, Planning Commission and Parks, Recreation and Culture Board Minutes Discussion

- F. Adjournment**



Memo for COW

To: Mayor Johnson and Members of the City Council
From: Matt Sylvester, Public Services Director
Date: December 21, 2021
Subject: Public Works Updates

Streets:

- Crews have been working on a tree trimming list. This list is generated over the summer when trees are at their fullest and is completed annually as a winter project.
- With the lack of snow we received in November Public Works was able to help out with the Liquor store move. They helped move different things from the old store to the new store, install shelving in the retail area, stock shelves, build wooden shelving for product storage, and prepared the old store for the new owners.

Storm:

- The 2021 Storm System Management Project is now completed.
- Staff will be doing some brush cutting in other storm ponds over winter when the ground is frozen as routine maintenance only.

Sewer:

- Sewer Jetting was completed this fall. This year they jetted more than usual as a training exercise for some of the newer team members concentrating on gravity areas out to the main lift station.
- The clarifiers at the WWTF have been drained and cleaned. The WWTF is now in winter mode where the clarifiers and UV bulbs are not in use.
- Fall maintenance was completed at the WWTF including oil changes on the backwash pumps, sludge pumps and the aeration blowers.

Water:

- Private well water testing is almost complete. Residents who have a private well are required to provide sample to be tested for Bacteria (Bac-T) and Nitrates in there private well. The limit is 0 for the Bac-t test and 10 mg/l in the Nitrates sample. This year we had 9 residents who did not submit their sample results. Public works is working on gathering those samples and getting those samples submitted.

Parks:

- Public Works was able to make a "Snow Making Machine". Staff has made a few modifications to it since the initial use with the cold temperatures. It be used as needed when the temperatures are cold enough.
- The Compost Site closed on November 7. Last years' compost was screened leaving residents with some composted dirt for gardening this coming spring.
- The Santa Event was held at the ICC on December 10 beginning with Santa Claus followed by the movie "Jingle all the Way".
- On December 12 Alyssa held the "Candy Cane Flashlight Hunt" in Legacy Park both events were well attended.



Memo for COW

To: Mayor Johnson and Members of the City Council
From: Alyssa Olson, Parks, Recreation & Events Coordinator
Date: December 21, 2021
Subject: Farmers Market Location Discussion

Background:

With the selling of the old liquor store land, the Isanti Family Farmers Market will need to re-locate ahead of the 2022 season, which will begin in May. A few City-owned locations have been reviewed as options, including the new liquor store, Bluebird Park, and Eagle Park. For space planning, the 2021 Market had an average of 15 vendors each week, with a max of 21.

Liquor store:

The original plan was to utilize the strip of land at the north end of the parking lot, but as that has been posted for sale, there is no guarantee that the area will be available for the Market season. Therefore, staff has looked at the south end of the lot that is reserved for RV parking. The grass area would provide sufficient spacing for 13-15 vendors each week, but parking for both vendors and customers would be an issue. In this space, the Market would take over most of the RV spaces to use for both Market parking and a pedestrian safety zone. However, the Market would be able to capitalize on built-in traffic, reducing the need for amplified marketing efforts. Because of this, if we utilize this space, Liquor Store management has asked to avoid Thursdays-Saturdays when RV traffic is heaviest.

Bluebird Park:

There is ample room in the open green space at the north end of the park to hold the Farmers Market. This space could also easily hold additional activities to amplify the Market, including live music, food trucks and kids programming. The parking lots would also easily hold the vehicles for Market vendors and customers. The park, however, offers very limited visibility from cross streets and does not have existing traffic to capitalize on. Attendance at the Market would almost fully depend on weekly marketing to drive enough traffic to the Market to support the vendors.

Eagle Park:

With the expansion of Eagle Park, there is room to move vendors onto the grass and reserve parking spaces for both vendors and customers. Similar to Bluebird Park, visibility is limited, however, there is more built-in traffic due to the proximity to Main Street businesses and the need for additional marketing would be minimal. Vendors have previously voiced concerns over moving back to the Eagle Park location, but the revised park would offer more space than was available previously.

With these obstacles, staff has also looked at changing the date of the Market to accommodate the traffic needs at these locations. Wednesday appears to be a valuable day for many Markets around the metro and would not compete with any area Markets. A Wednesday Market at the new liquor store would allow Market customers and vendors to utilize parking spaces without disrupting the general store traffic. It could also drive traffic to the store on a slower day. A Wednesday Market at Eagle Park might capitalize on higher traffic in the downtown area; Bluebird Park traffic is fairly consistent regardless of the day.

Recommendation:

Staff is recommending the Market be moved to Wednesday evenings and located at the Liquor Store. The Liquor Store location offers the best visibility for the Market and moving to a low-traffic night could help increase business on days when the store isn't as active. Keeping the location tied to the store can also help with marketing efforts as many customers and vendors already assumed the Market would move with the store.

Request:

Staff is requesting direction on the new Farmers Market location and day of the week.