

JANUARY, 2023

CITY OF TWO RIVERS

NEWSLETTER



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN



HAPPY NEW YEAR

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO GOLF CART REGULATIONS

At its meeting on January 16, the City Council will consider changes to the current City ordinance that allows for operation of golf carts on city streets.

Possible changes that will be discussed by the City Council at that meeting include:

- Prohibiting operation of golf carts on certain high-traffic city streets, such as Forest Avenue and Lincoln Avenue (in addition to the current prohibition against operation on streets with speed limits over 35 MPH, like Memorial Drive and the northerly portion of Lincoln Avenue)
- Not allowing passengers in rear-facing back seats that do not have seat belts or other appropriate restraints (or at least prohibiting children in such rear-facing seats)
- Increasing the annual licensing fee (currently \$25) for golf carts

If the City Council identifies certain ordinance changes that it wishes to pursue, a formal ordinance amendment will then be presented for action at the February 6 Council meeting.

Interested citizens are welcome to attend the January 16 meeting to provide input on this topic, or you can reach out to all members of the City Council by using the “Contact the Council” form on the City’s website, www.two-rivers.org.

2023 CITY BUDGET: HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 City Budget was adopted by the City Council on December 5.

With all funds taken into account, the Budget includes \$43 million in City expenditures in the coming year. Here are a few highlights:

1. The City's General Fund, which includes the operating budgets for Police, Fire/EMS, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and General Government, 85 percent of which is personnel costs, totals \$11.1 million, which is up 2.9 percent over 2022. A small tax increase of \$19,500 was approved for General Fund operations, bringing total taxes in support of that fund to \$2,250,000.
2. Tax support for the Lester Public Library is unchanged from 2022, at \$631,287. Total Library budget, at \$892,817, is up 3.25 percent
3. Taxes required for payment of Debt Service on financing of past capital projects are up \$137,873, to \$2,518,625, and are the major contributing factor to an increase of 2.79 % in the City share of the total property tax bill.
4. The various utility budgets—Electric, Water, Sewer, Storm Sewer and Solid Waste, total \$16.7 million. There are no rate changes planned for 2023.
5. Major capital projects for 2023, funded from City borrowing and grants, include:
 - Reconstruction of Lincoln Street, from 17th to 22nd , including replacement of all utilities, at a cost of \$2.6 million
 - Resurfacing of Zlatnik Drive from 17th to Pierce, budgeted at \$188,000
 - Scattered concrete street repairs, budgeted at \$135,000
 - Installation of a major new playground at Neshotah Park, budgeted at \$400,000
 - Construction of the Central Park West Project, at \$1.65 million (two-thirds funded from grants and donations)
 - Replacement of a DPW dump/plow truck, at \$300,000
 - Upgrading an existing Fire Department ambulance with new cab/chassis and ambulance box reconditioning (\$190,000, versus more than \$300,000 for a new unit)

