

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF PARKERS PRAIRIE TAX LEVY

We want you to know how your tax dollars are spent. The information provided below is a summary of the City's General Fund Budget and Tax Levy for 2022, and the PRELIMINARY (proposed) General Fund Budget and Tax Levy for 2023.

2022 EXPENDITURE BUDGET

City Admin, Operations, Council, Econ Dev.	\$177,098
City Buildings - Operations & Maintenance	\$35,150
Election Administration	\$5,319
Police Department	\$283,790
Fire Department & Fire Relief	\$68,800
Streets, Storm Sewer, Snow Removal	\$228,168
Park Areas & Care of Trees	\$79,120
Swimming Pool Operations	\$75,941
Support of Ambulance Service	\$23,500
Support of Prairie Event Center Operations	\$50,000
Lodging Tax	\$10,000
Solid Waste Administration	\$2,720
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR 2022	\$1,039,606

2022 REVENUE BUDGET

Local Government Aid	\$302,013
Police State Aid	\$16,800
P.O.S.T. and Other Police Revenues	\$18,500
Swimming Pool Revenue	\$44,600
Lodging Tax Revenue	\$10,000
Reimbursement from OTC Solid Waste	\$2,720
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$8,592
City of Parkers Prairie Tax Levy	\$636,381
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2022	\$1,039,606

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PRELIMINARY 2023 EXPENDITURE BUDGET

City Admin, Operations, Council, Econ Dev	\$168,507
City Buildings	\$39,896
Police Department	\$318,631
Fire Department & Fire Relief	\$73,801
Streets, Storm Sewer, Snow Removal	\$290,454
Park Areas & Care of Trees	\$84,537
Swimming Pool Operations	\$97,218
Support of Ambulance Service	\$41,600
Support of Prairie Event Center Operations	\$55,000
Lodging Tax	\$10,000
Solid Waste Administration	\$2,770
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR 2022	\$1,182,414

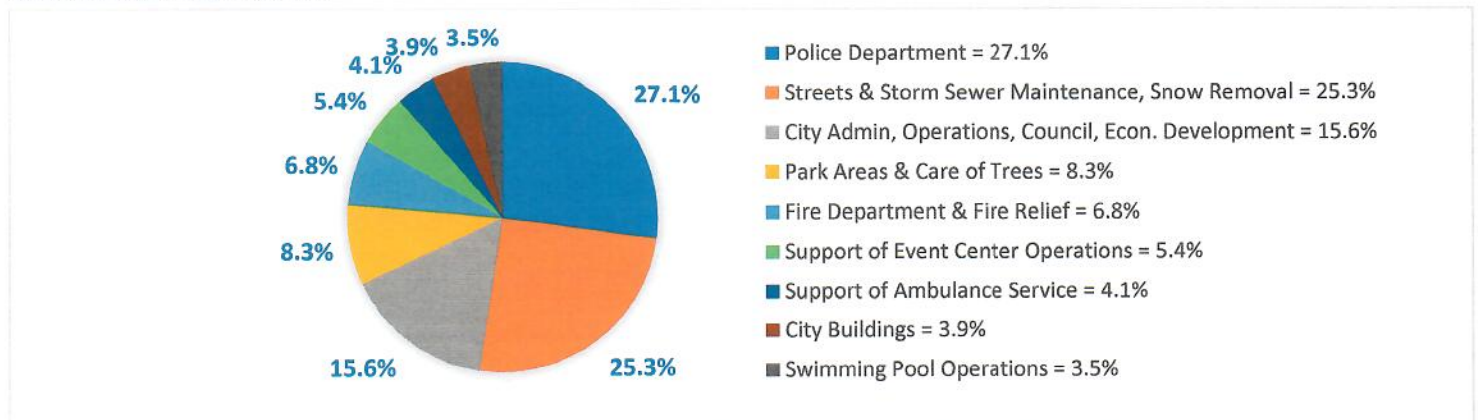
PRELIMINARY 2023 REVENUE BUDGET

Local Government Aid	\$307,058
Police State Aid	\$19,000
P.O.S.T. and Other Police Revenues	\$21,648
Swimming Pool Revenue	\$60,800
Lodging Tax Revenue	\$10,000
Reimbursement from OTC Solid Waste	\$2,720
Small Cities Grant Funds	\$29,606
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$12,562
City of Parkers Prairie Tax Levy (proposed)	\$719,020
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2022	\$1,182,414

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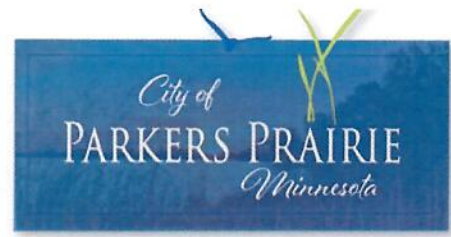
The PRELIMINARY Tax Levy for 2023 shown above represents an increase of \$82,639, or 13.0%, over 2022.

The chart below shows where your 2023 TAX LEVY DOLLARS would be spent, based on the proposed expenditures and revenues listed above.



Your feedback is important to us! Contact the City Administrator Beth Wussow at the Parkers Prairie City Hall with comments or questions at 218-338-5006. Comments or inquiries may also be emailed to bwussow@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us or by mail at Parkers Prairie City Hall, 102 North Otter Avenue, P.O. Box 70, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361. All feedback will be shared with our City Council members. The City Council holds an annual public meeting regarding the proposed budget and Tax Levy before the final Tax Levy is assessed (this is called the Truth in Taxation public meeting). This public meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm** at the Parkers Prairie City Hall. This meeting is open to the public, and all interested parties are encouraged to attend. Thank you.

October 18, 2022



Dear City of Parkers Prairie Community Member,

I am often asked by residents of Parkers Prairie questions like “What is the City’s plan is for fixing a specific road?” or “How does the City plan to address the rising water level at Lake Adley?” or even “When will the City get around to replacing the carpeting at the Prairie Event Center?” All these questions, and many others, are asked by people who feel strongly about the issue they have inquired about. They want to know that someone has heard their concern, and that it is taken seriously. Well, I can honestly say “We (your elected officials, City staff, and myself) are listening, and we hear you.” There will never be a community where *everyone* shares the *same* concerns and *agrees* on which items should top the priority list. But we are still listening to *you* about what is important to *you*. We are hearing you when you tell us about your priorities and your visions for our community.

I have taken interest in learning about the history of Parkers Prairie; how past ideas grew into priorities, which then grew into actions. While some actions of the past may be interpreted as “good” or “bad,” I have honestly come to believe that elected officials made the best decisions that they could, based on the **information** they had at the time, the community’s **social and economic situation** at the time, the **opportunities** they were presented with, and how the community’s **values** were **prioritized**. Over the past decade we have seen many changes in our community’s social and economic situation, our opportunities, our values, and our priorities. We must continue to consider new information and be open to new opportunities in an ever-changing environment. We must consider the possibility that the way things were done in the past, may not (or may still) be the best solution for today.

Today we find ourselves in a challenging economic environment. Anyone who buys goods or services knows that costs are on the rise, and all too often a family’s income fails to keep up with the pace of inflation. We are experiencing the same challenges at the City. Costs for equipment, operating supplies, and services have risen at a tremendous pace. Meanwhile, our City has roads that need repair, aging utility infrastructure that need improvements, parks and City buildings that need to be maintained, and vital services that need to remain available in our community. It is difficult to prioritize what to spend the taxpayer’s hard-earned dollars on when *all* those things listed above is of priority to *someone*. The fact is, in the economic situation we are in, funds can only be stretched so far. Street and utility infrastructure projects that were discussed years ago have had to be delayed until more funding is available. Some equipment purchases have likewise been delayed as we juggle increases from our vendors and service providers. We know that you are experiencing the same challenges in your (and your family’s) life as well.

In the upcoming months, your elected officials on the City Council have some very difficult decisions to make – what to prioritize, how to best utilize tax dollars, what items need the most attention, and in what areas we can cut spending. Your elected officials took an oath to represent the citizens of Parkers Prairie and to make decisions that may best serve the *whole* community, even when some of those decisions are very difficult to make.

The information on the opposite side of this letter is a summary of the revenue and expenditure budgets for the departments supported by the City’s General Fund. While the budgets for 2022 are set, the budgets for 2023 are only preliminary budgets at this point. The 2023 budgets and tax levy will be finalized in December. You will notice that some of the items in the expenditure budget on the left are supported (or offset) by revenues listed on the right.

On behalf of your elected officials, and myself, I want to say that we welcome your comments, feedback, questions, and ideas. Feel free to talk to us, email us, or write us a letter. We thank you for being a part of the Parkers Prairie community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beth Wussow", is written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Beth Wussow, City Administrator

bwussow@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us

218-338-4115

Parkers Prairie City Hall
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P.O. Box 70
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

Your 2022 City Council Members:

Mayor Kevin Birkholz
Council Member Greg Larson
Council Member Linda Martinson Bates
Council Member Tony Woodworth
Council Member Glenn Cornish