

Dear City of Parkers Prairie Community Member,

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 level. 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 needs replacement, 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 *each* of those things listed above is of priority to *someone*.

Your elected City Council members, City Staff, and I have taken the time to consider the many needs of our community when preparing the City budgets – what items deserve top priority, how to best utilize tax dollars, 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.

Due to inflation and funding challenges in the past few years, we had postponed the next street and utility improvement project. With so much of our infrastructure in need of replacement, more delay only puts us further behind the improvement schedule. We are now in the planning stage for the next project, which is preliminarily scheduled for construction this coming summer (2024). The focus is on two streets with the oldest infrastructure and worst asphalt condition: Sunset Avenue and East Lake Street. Additionally, the main sanitary sewer lift station (on the north side of Lake Adley) is in dire need of replacement and will be relocated to a slightly higher elevation to safeguard against the rising water level of Lake Adley that we have seen in recent years. You will soon see engineers surveying these areas to prepare for the project. Once the bids come in for the project, we will determine if there will be adequate funding to proceed.

How will the 2024 project be funded? Some parts of the project, like the street portions without underlying water and sewer infrastructure, will be funded with general fund tax levy dollars. Street portions where underground water and sewer utilities will be replaced will be funded with our City water and sewer revenues. While none of us like to see increases in water and sewer rates, the changes are necessary to provide us with adequate revenue to bond for this project, for which payments would be made over a period of 20 years. We do *not* plan to use special assessments to fund this project. Federal grants are only available *after* we have met a certain threshold for monthly utility rates (which is based on our City's median household income). Even after the January 1, 2024 rate increases, we are still nowhere near meeting this threshold. As always, we will continue to look for funding alternatives to help alleviate the burden on our community members.

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 2023 are set, the budgets for 2024 are only preliminary budgets at this point. The 2024 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.

**Each year, at the beginning of the regular City Council meeting in December, there is time set aside for the members of the public to speak to the Council regarding the City's proposed budget and tax levy for the upcoming year. \*This public hearing is called the Truth in Taxation Public Meeting, and it takes place *prior to* the Council adopting the upcoming year's budget and tax levy. This year's Truth in Taxation Public Meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Parkers Prairie City Hall. We encourage all interested parties to attend. You do *not* need to let me know in advance that you wish to address the Council at this meeting, as opportunity will be provided to all those wishing to speak.**

**Please feel free to contact me at the City Hall if you have questions about this meeting.**

*\*Please note that the Truth in Taxation Public Meeting is NOT the meeting where you may discuss the valuation or classification of your property. Those items are addressed at the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting, which takes place in April.*

On behalf of your elected officials, and myself, I want to say that we welcome your comments, feedback, questions, and ideas. We want you to understand that we care about the same issues that are important to *you*. Know that we are listening when you tell us about your priorities and your visions for our community. 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,

Beth Wussow, City Administrator  
[bwussow@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us](mailto:bwussow@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us)  
218-338-4115  
102 North Otter Avenue  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

**Your 2023-2024 City Council Members:**

Mayor Kevin Birkholz – [phone 320-760-3505](tel:320-760-3505)  
Council Member Tony Woodworth [woodworth.tony@gmail.com](mailto:woodworth.tony@gmail.com)  
Council Member Linda Martinson Bates [lbates@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us](mailto:lbates@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us)  
Council Member Glenn Cornish [gcornish@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us](mailto:gcornish@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us)  
Council Member Cody Mathues [mathues44@gmail.com](mailto:mathues44@gmail.com)





# 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 years 2023 and 2024 (proposed).

## 2023 EXPENDITURE BUDGET

City Admin, Operations, Council, Econ Dev.	\$ 168,507
City Buildings - Operations & Maintenance	\$ 39,896
Election Administration	\$ 0
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
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR 2023</b>	<b>\$1,182,414</b>

## 2023 REVENUE BUDGET

Local Government Aid	\$ 307,058
Police State Aid	\$ 20,033
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
<b>City of Parkers Prairie Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$ 717,987</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023</b>	<b>\$1,182,414</b>

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## 2024 EXPENDITURE BUDGET

City Admin, Operations, Council, Econ Dev.	\$ 192,220
City Buildings	\$ 40,778
Election Administration	\$ 5,500
Police Department	\$ 361,739
Fire Department & Fire Relief	\$ 100,182
Streets, Storm Sewer, Snow Removal	\$ 358,889
Park Areas & Care of Trees	\$ 65,993
Swimming Pool Operations	\$ 105,685
Support of Ambulance Service	\$ 33,600
Support of Prairie Event Center Operations	\$ 55,000
Lodging Tax	\$ 8,000
Solid Waste Administration	\$ 2,220
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR 2024</b>	<b>\$1,329,806</b>

## 2024 REVENUE BUDGET

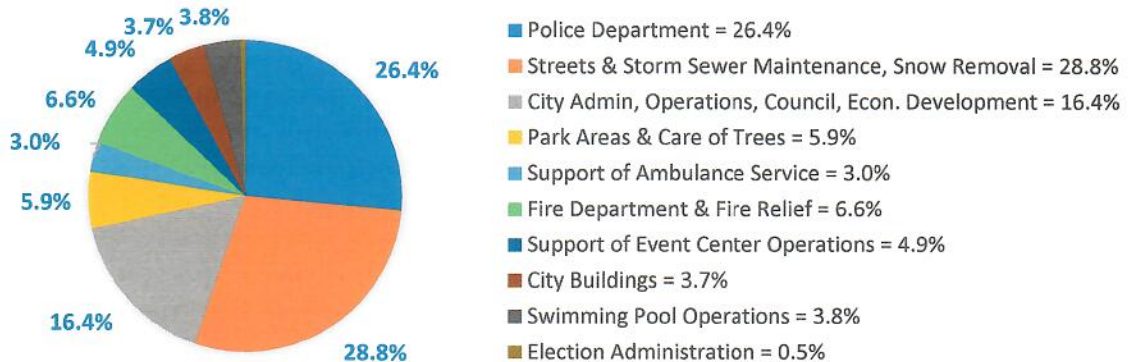
Local Government Aid	\$ 340,487
Police State Aid	\$ 20,033
P.O.S.T. and Other Police Revenues	\$ 22,507
Swimming Pool Revenue	\$ 63,300
Lodging Tax Revenue	\$ 8,000
Reimbursement from OTC Solid Waste	\$ 2,220
Small Cities Grant Funds	\$ 33,950
Public Safety Funds	\$ 44,240
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 12,892
<b>City of Parkers Prairie Tax Levy (proposed)</b>	<b>\$ 782,177</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2024</b>	<b>\$1,329,806</b>

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The Tax Levy for 2024 shown above represents an increase of \$64,190, or 8.94%, over 2023.



The chart below shows where your 2024 TAX LEVY DOLLARS will be spent, based on the expenditures (and where applicable, the revenues that offset specific expenditures) 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 or 218-338-4115. Comments or inquiries may also be emailed to [bwussow@ci.parkers-prairie.mn.us](mailto: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.