



WINTER 2023 Champlin Chronicle

IN THIS ISSUE

- 02**
Mayor for a Day
- 04**
Community Development
- 06**
Winter Events
- 08**
Winter Programs
- 10**
Budget Breakdown
- 15**
Police Dogwatch



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Public Safety and Neighborhood Street Improvements at the Forefront of the 2024 Operating Budget

By: Bret Heitkamp, City Administrator

There are several new City service initiatives incorporated in the proposed 2024 operating budget along with the necessary inflationary impacts required to address everyday price increases associated with materials, goods, and services; however, a continued focus on public safety and neighborhood street improvements remains key in the proposed 2024 budget.

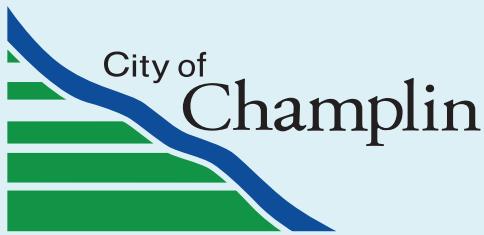
You may recall that 30 percent of the new service initiatives impacting last year's budget were dedicated to public safety. With a historic number of new State mandates that will become effective in 2024, along with aggressive recruitment and retention efforts to support our Police and Fire Departments, public safety has continued to be the top priority for the City Council throughout the 2024 budget process.

For 2024, the City's gross levy is proposed to increase approximately 11.4 percent. When factoring in a reduction in Fiscal Disparities, that net levy is expected to increase by 13.7 percent. Although these figures are still preliminary, the bottom line is that the City's share of the annual property taxes for a median-valued home of \$351,500 in Champlin will increase by approximately \$128 for 2024.

The most significant factor impacting the 2024 budget is the levy necessary to fund the City's borrowing obligations. Street rehabilitation projects continue to make up a majority of the capital expenditures with nearly 70 percent of the City's capital expenses dedicated to street rehabilitation over the next 10 years. These projects are funded by a combination of special assessments, State Aid, and when possible, Federal grants. The balance needed to fund the City's share of these street improvement projects is necessary to continue the aggressive schedule of rehabilitating our aging street infrastructure.

As mentioned previously, public safety continues to be a focus for the City Council with the 2024 budget. In an attempt to remain competitive in our hiring of police

continued on page 5



CITY HALL

Phone: 763-421-8100

Website: www.ci.champlin.mn.us

The City Council and staff can be reached at the following email: email@ci.champlin.mn.us

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ice Forum: 763-421-3696

Parks & Public Works: 763-421-2820

Police Administration: 763-421-2971

Utility Billing: 763-923-7135

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Ryan Sabas

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ward 1: Jessica Tesdall | **Ward 2:** Tom Moe
Ward 3: Nate Truesdell | **Ward 4:** Tim LaCroix

CITY STAFF

City Administrator: Bret Heitkamp

City Engineer: Heather Nelson

Communications: Ashley Wagner

Community Development Director: Scott Schulte

Finance Director: Shelly Peterson

Fire Chief: Ted Massicotte

IT Director: Todd Beisang

Police Chief: Glen Schneider

Public Works Director: Chris Rachner

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council: 2nd & 4th Monday of the Month

EDA: 2nd & 4th Monday of the Month

ERC: 1st Monday of the Month

Park & Rec Commission: 1st Tuesday of the Month

Planning Commission: 3rd Monday of the Month

*Meeting dates are subject to change; call the City office to confirm dates and times or check website calendar for updates

EDITOR

Champlin Chronicle Editor: Ashley Wagner



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Mayor for a Day Kids' Contest

What would our cities look like if kids were in charge? The Mayor for a Day Essay Contest is back to find out! Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders may enter by answering the question below for a chance to win \$100 and recognition in the League of Minnesota Cities magazine. The deadline for submissions is **December 12**. A submission form and primer on what mayors do can be found at lmc.org/mayorforaday.



FULL ESSAY QUESTION: Cities provide a variety of services and programs that make our lives better, including parks & recreation, street maintenance, water and sewer, libraries, police, fire, and more! If you were mayor for a day, what would you do to make one of the services that your city provides even better?

Winners only will be notified in early January by LMC.
Good luck to all.

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[Mayor's Corner]

Greetings, Neighbors!

By: Mayor Ryan Sabas

What a year 2023 has been for Champlin!

There have been many exciting moments. My personal favorites were the Father Hennepin Festival and the launch of the Mississippi Crossings Summer Series. I look forward to seeing both community events grow in the year ahead.



As we look to 2024, a lot of hard work is happening behind the scenes to keep our community safe and financially sound. More than ever, we need to be proactive when it comes to the staffing/hiring and budgeting process. City Hall is not immune to inflation and this year has been especially challenging with increases across the board. I understand the reality of what folks are facing at home and want to assure residents that the City Council is being fiscally responsible with every dollar of your property taxes.

Based on feedback, we know community events are important to our residents. Because these are large budget items, it is crucial we determine the right timing, size, and community expectation. I welcome you to share your opinion and concerns to help the Council make community-based decisions.

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As we get ready to step into 2024, take a moment to know who your leaders and council members are. Even though residents face state and national issues, the most important ones are those that start at home. One initiative I want to continue to work on is sharing what is going on at City Hall. When I first ran for office, I committed to complete transparency, and I plan to keep that commitment. In 2024, I plan to start a community "State of the City" address where I will welcome residents and business leaders to hear and understand the challenges we face as a community. It is my sincere hope that this will take place during my time as Mayor and for the foreseeable future.

I pray that everyone has a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. See you on December 1 at "Christmas at the Crossings," our hometown Champlin tree lighting event.

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Community Development News

Work in Progress



Emery Village

Emery Village Reserve 4th Addition is a 40-unit condominium development located on Business Park Boulevard. The project

is an extension of the Emery Village neighborhood. The first building is on track to open for occupancy before the end of 2023. The remaining buildings will be completed in 2024.



Twin City Twisters

Twin City Twisters' new 40,000 square foot gymnastics facility located on Business Park Boulevard is

wrapping up. The facility will be open around the first of the new year.



Riverway

Riverway Church is getting started on constructing their new home. The 40,000 square foot facility will sit on the corner of Champlin Drive and 117th Avenue. Work will pause over

the winter and start back up in the spring with an anticipated completion of phase one in 2025.



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Mississippi Market

Construction is underway on a 5,500 square-foot building located inside Mississippi Crossings by The Bowline Apartments. Upon completion in the

summer of 2024, the market will specialize in ready-to-go deli items, baked goods, coffee, fresh meats, produce, and more.

In the Works



Mississippi Crossings Restaurant

Plans for a restaurant at Mississippi Crossings with a rooftop and patio are still in progress. This build will be the final phase of development in the Crossings area. The developer is working to make the project a reality with intention to start construction soon.





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continued from page 1

officers and firefighters, the 2024 budget includes ramping up recruitment and retention efforts with police officer market adjustments, benefit modifications, and funding to address mental health injury prevention.

In addition to the continued focus on public safety, a wide array of new City-service initiatives and enhancements are included in the 2024 Operating Budget, including funding for a second summer of our highly successful Summer Stage Series at Mississippi Crossings. The 2024 budget includes additional staffing and supplies to help address the increased demands on our Public Works department with winter snow and ice control, street patching, and summer park maintenance responsibilities.

It's also important to note that 2024 is a presidential election year and the budget is reflective of those additional costs, including the addition of a presidential primary. Because new State laws will significantly increase the amount of time that will now be allowed for both absentee and in-person voting, City costs associated with providing the additional election judges required to oversee the election process will increase by 157 percent in 2024.

2024 budget discussions for staff and the City Council began in early June and have continued throughout the summer and fall. On September 25, the City Council certified both a proposed 2024 General Fund operating budget and tax levy to Hennepin County. You should have received your 2024 Notice of Proposed Property Tax Statement from Hennepin County, which provides an estimate of your property taxes payable in 2024. After significant review by the City Council, the final tax levy that will be submitted to Hennepin County is anticipated to be approximately one percent less than what appears on the notification you received from Hennepin County in November. Keep in mind that your local Champlin property taxes only represent approximately one-third of your total property tax payment. Hennepin County and the Anoka-Hennepin School District make up nearly the entire remaining balance of your total property taxes payable for 2024.

With talk of a pending economic recession and the continued social unrest looming over our state and great nation, we hope residents find value in the City Council's commitment to public safety, the rehabilitation of our street infrastructure, and all the other essential, reliable, and cost-effective city services we have grown to expect and appreciate.

Stay safe and find joy during the upcoming holiday season. Please take advantage of the opportunity to attend the Public Meeting scheduled for Monday, December 11, to express any comments and/or concerns you may have regarding the proposed 2024 General Fund Operating Budget. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 763-923-7110, or email me at bheitkamp@ci.champlin.mn.us.

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Christmas at the Crossings

Friday, December 1 | 4:00-6:30 p.m.
307 East River Pkwy.



This free family tree lighting event will start at 4 p.m. and include Santa, cookies, and cocoa. The CPHS Choir will sing carols from 5-6:30 p.m. We will officially light the tree up at 6:30 p.m. Following the event, the Mississippi Crossings outdoor holiday light displays will be lit until 10 p.m. nightly throughout December.



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2023 Holiday Lights Tour

We encourage all the Clark Griswolds in Champlin – homeowners with holiday spirit – to participate in our Champlin Holiday Lights Tour. It is FREE and easy; decorate your home for the holidays, then email your name and address to recreation@ci.champlin.mn.us and we'll add your home to the tour. We will compile a list of participating homes and make it available on our website during the first week of December. Residents can drive by participating homes and enjoy the holiday spirit on display in Champlin.



WINTER EVENTS

Expedition Yeti 2024

January - February | Champlin Parks

Watch the city's website for details on the return of this free family event. Get ready to run through local parks to locate Yeti and use the letters you find to solve a weekly riddle.



Trout Ice Fishing

February 10 | 8:30-11:30 a.m. | 10377 French Lake Rd



The annual Champlin Trout Ice Fishing contest will be on Saturday, February 10 at the Champlin Trout Pond. The tournament makeup date will be February 17.

All participants must abide by the Minnesota State Licensing requirements and be in possession of a trout stamp; neither will be available for purchase on site. The event is open to all ages; anglers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The contest will primarily be catch and release; however, contestants may keep up to three rainbow trout.

Online registration will open on Tuesday, January 9 at 10 a.m. Watch our website at ci.champlin.mn.us for more details. Register early; space is limited to five hundred anglers.



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WINTER PROGRAMS



Ice Skating Lessons

Learn to Skate USA programs make skating fun and safe for kids as they grow an everlasting love for the sport. The next session will start on Monday, January 8; this is the last session until the summer. We offer a variety of levels for skaters of most ages. Snowplow Sam is a beginner program for skaters aged 3-5. Basic skills is for skaters ages 6+ to learn fundamentals like forward skating, backward skating, stops, edges, crossovers, turns, and Mohawks. The Hockey program is aimed at learning how to be faster and more agile on the ice. Registration is open and available online at secure.rec1.com/MN/champlin-mn/catalog.



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Seniors

MAHJONG

Be one of the first to participate in this new club! This group will meet and play American Mahjong at the Parks & Public Works Building. This is not an instructional group and you should have working knowledge of how to play.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-noon, every Wednesday of each month

WHERE: Parks & Public Works Building, 11955 Champlin Drive

COST: \$12 annual fee, payable at the front desk day one of attendance. Dues valid January 1 - December 31.

500 CARDS

Calling all card players! If you enjoy 500, here is your chance to meet with area friends and play. This is an open game, and we will make partners and tables as you arrive. Each round you will switch partners and move around the room to meet others.

WHEN: 12:30 p.m., every Thursday of each month

WHERE: Champlin Community Center (12450 Gettysburg Avenue)

COST: \$1.00 prize fee will be collected at the start of each game date

Puzzles, Pizza & Pop

Gather your team of up to five players to compete in this fun Friday night event. Each team will receive the same 500-piece puzzle and be allotted up to two hours to complete it. You will compete to see who can finish their puzzle the fastest while enjoying pizza and pop. The cost to register is \$60 per team which includes a large one-topping pizza, a 16 oz. bottle of pop per player, and the puzzle, which is yours to take home at the end of the night! This event is open to all ages. Registration deadline is January 15, or until full.

WHERE: Mississippi Crossings Event Center (307 East River Pkwy.)

WHEN: Friday, January 26

TIME: Doors open at 5:30 p.m. | Contest begins at 6:15 p.m. sharp

FEES: \$60 per team (up to 5 players) - only one person register.



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Snowplowing Program

To avoid plowing twice, Public Works plows once snowfall ceases. Starting between the hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m., snow is plowed within 24 hours. It requires approximately 10 hours to plow all streets. Arterial routes are plowed first to have an “early-plow” route within a quarter mile of each residence. We encourage residents to stake curbs to protect yards. If you experience an emergency and your street has not been plowed, call Hennepin County Dispatch at 612-596-0299 or 911. HC is also your go-to for county roads. For state highways, contact MNDOT at 651-234-7110. For city streets, call Public Works at 763-421-2820 or after hours at 952-258-5321.

To Salt or Not

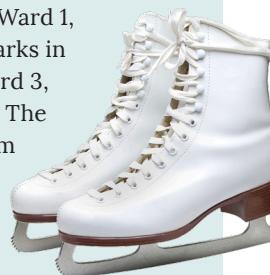
It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water. The Champlin Environmental Resources Commission (ERC) encourages property owners to follow these tips for using salt wisely this winter.

- 1. Shovel** Clear walkways before snow turns to ice and before you apply salt.
- 2. Select** Salt doesn't melt ice if below 15 degrees, so use sand for traction instead.
- 3. Scatter** Use salt only when critical. When applying, leave plenty of space between granules.
- 4. Sweep** Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse.



Seasonal Outdoor Rink Information

We anticipate opening outdoor rinks mid-December through mid-February, weather permitting. The hours of operation will be 4-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and noon to 9 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and “no-school days.” The locations with warming houses that will be maintained by the City are Richardson Park in Ward 1, Northland and Woodlawn Parks in Ward 2, Andrews Park in Ward 3, and Brittany Park in Ward 4. The outdoor rink at the Ice Forum can be used when the youth hockey teams are not on it.



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Front Row: Stephanie Stolt (Pre-Planning Specialist), Tina Schutz (Funeral Director), and Brittney Chase (Funeral Director)



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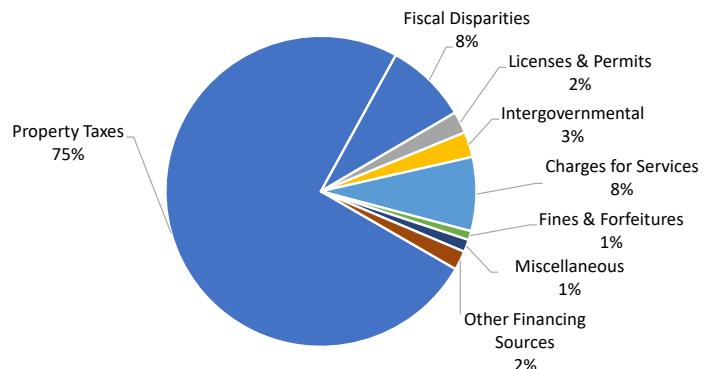
2024 Budget - General Fund Expenditures by Function

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Adopted	2024 Proposed	% Increase (Decrease) 2023 to 2024
General Government						
Mayor and Council	75,969	79,395	83,289	85,300	86,700	1.64%
Administration	195,406	254,136	235,958	236,400	236,000	(0.17%)
Legal	30,496	44,195	52,325	43,800	87,400	99.54%
Government Services	184,733	98,635	99,314	83,200	94,500	13.58%
Elections	24,295	5,148	27,777	4,500	77,600	1624.44%
Building Maintenance	181,317	274,550	346,901	363,600	373,500	2.72%
Finance	307,778	321,810	323,025	358,200	371,100	3.60%
Assessing	203,000	210,000	221,571	227,000	241,000	6.17%
Information Technology	159,732	196,226	211,634	248,500	290,100	16.74%
Community Development	103,664	132,716	145,845	159,000	167,800	5.53%
Total General Government	1,466,390	1,616,812	1,747,638	1,809,500	2,025,700	11.95%
Public Safety						
Protective Inspection	361,456	372,159	387,969	362,800	382,600	5.46%
Code Enforcement	167,620	164,406	166,210	196,900	204,900	4.06%
Police	4,311,719	4,446,726	4,673,663	5,338,600	5,606,300	5.01%
Emergency Preparedness Management	40,033	54,633	45,242	46,600	55,400	18.88%
Fire Protection	666,800	690,500	721,039	753,400	828,300	9.94%
Total Public Safety	5,547,628	5,728,423	5,994,122	6,698,300	7,077,500	5.66%
Public Works						
Engineering	195,721	220,378	212,119	273,400	240,200	(12.14%)
Public Works	1,975,861	2,043,784	2,164,251	2,282,000	2,550,100	11.75%
Cemetery	17,402	27,712	28,127	29,300	30,200	3.07%
Total Public Works	2,188,984	2,291,873	2,404,498	2,584,700	2,820,500	9.12%
Culture and Recreation						
Park and Recreation	534,541	683,164	785,326	1,052,600	1,160,100	10.21%
Total Culture and Recreation	534,541	683,164	785,326	1,052,600	1,160,100	10.21%
Other Functions (Transfers, Nondept)						
Non-departmental Uses	188,315	253,407	255,805	468,500	508,800	8.60%
Transfers	5,345,000	2,770,000	2,735,000	2,775,200	3,055,600	10.10%
Total Other Functions	5,533,315	3,023,407	2,990,805	3,243,700	3,564,400	9.89%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	15,270,857	13,343,680	13,922,388	15,388,800	16,648,200	8.18%

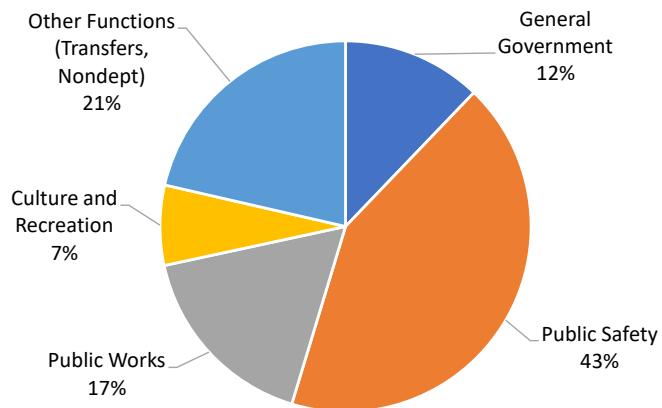
CITY OF CHAMPLIN 2024 BUDGET

A **GENERAL FUND** is the primary fund used by the City of Champlin. This fund is used to record all resource inflows and outflows that are not associated with special-purpose funds (like water and sewer utilities). The activities being paid for through the general fund consist of core administrative and operational tasks the City performs for its taxpayers. Its primary inflow is the annual property tax levy.

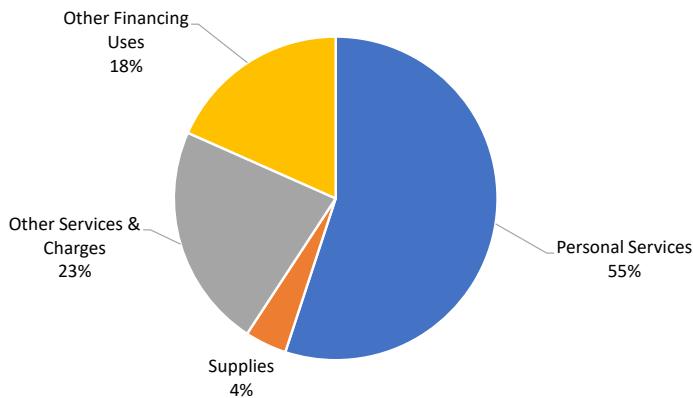
2024 General Fund Revenues



2024 General Fund Expenditures by Department



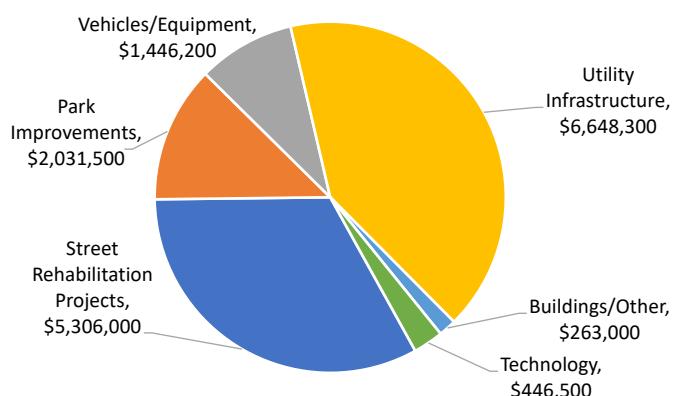
2024 General Fund Expenditures by Category



CAPITAL ASSETS are the City's infrastructure and equipment such as roads, water, sewer pipes, buildings, and vehicles which have a useful life of more than two years, used to provide city services to our residents and businesses.

In 2024, 37 percent of the City's total budgeted spending goes toward capital projects, nearly all of which can't be delayed.

2024 Capital Infrastructure and Equipment



continued on next page

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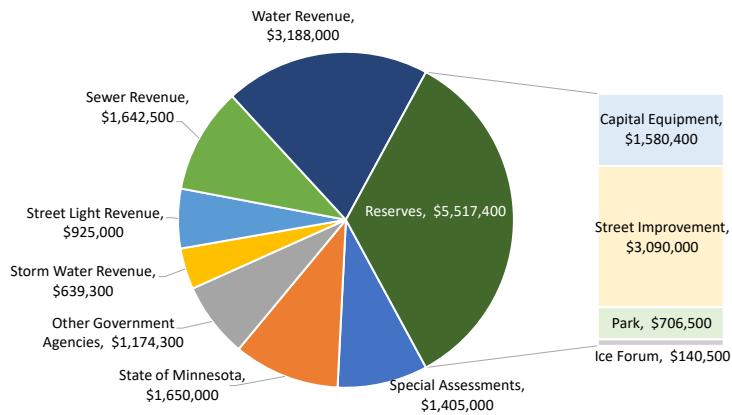
763.493.7048

sainttherese.org/communities/brooklyn-park



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2024 Funding Sources for Capital Initiatives



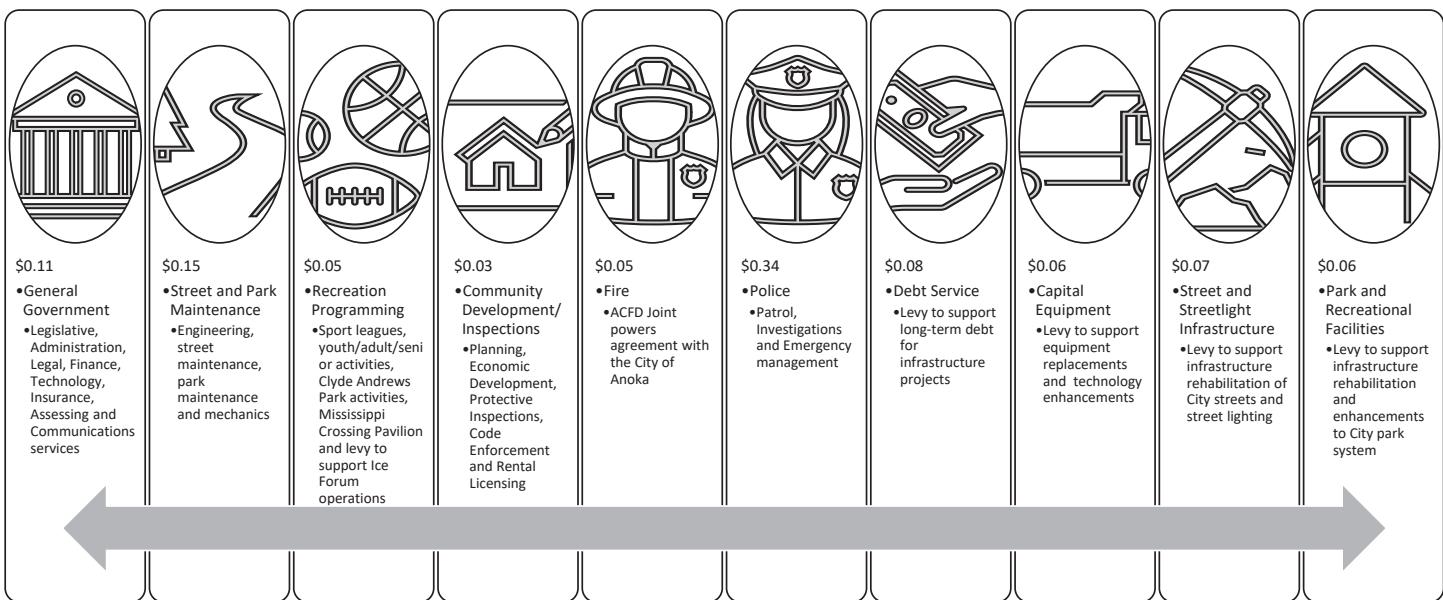
Where Your Property Taxes Go

(Based on 2024 Preliminary Tax Rates)

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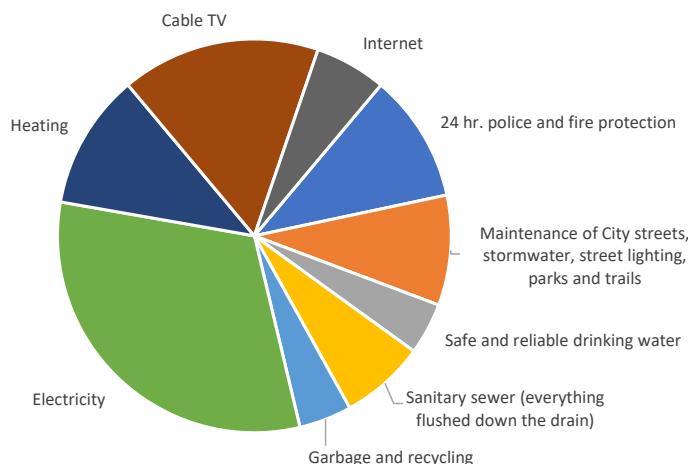
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2024 Budget Highlights

Services for a typical residential home

Services for a typical residential home	Monthly Tax	Average Utility Bill	Total Monthly Expense
24 hr. police and fire protection	\$54		\$54
Maintenance of City streets, stormwater, street lighting, parks and trails	\$35	\$12	\$46
Safe and reliable drinking water		\$22	\$22
Sanitary sewer (everything flushed down the drain)		\$36	\$36
Garbage and recycling		\$22	\$22
Electricity		\$161	\$161
Heating		\$57	\$57
Cable TV		\$84	\$84
Internet		\$30	\$30

Included in your city taxes or utility bill



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Elm Creek Stream Restoration - Phase V

The City has been working to restore the Elm Creek stream bank and provide native habitat improvements. The next phase of the project includes 2,500 lineal feet of stream and extends the restoration of Elm Creek from the Elm Creek Crossing bridge upstream (west) to Hayden Lake.

Stream bank improvement work will begin in December and include restoration of the riparian areas of the creek. Native planting buffers will be constructed to filter sediment and nutrients from directly running into the creek.

Elm Creek is an impaired waterway, and projects like this one incorporate improvements to habitat, water quality, and flood control. This project opens opportunities to improve public recreation like kayaking and fishing.



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2024 Citizens Academy

Thursdays | March 7-April 25 | 7-9:30 p.m.

Are you interested in learning more about the Champlin Police Department? Would you like to get "behind the scenes" and see all that goes into public safety? Our **FREE** class covers topics like patrol, criminal investigations, drone operation, use of force, traffic stops, DWI arrests, a K-9 demonstration, and more. Sign up early as our class size is limited to 30 participants. Attendees must live in or work in Champlin, be over 16 years old, and pass a background check. Interested? Email Ben Nelson at bnelson@ci.champlin.mn.us or call 763-253-4254.



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DOGWATCH

Shining a light on those who work in the dark for the Champlin Police Department.



While most residents of Champlin are getting ready for bed, the nightshift officers – or DOGWATCH as they like to be known – are sipping on energy drinks, suiting up in their duty belts and Kevlar vests, setting up their squads, and getting ready to hit the road for their tour of duty.

Their day begins at 9 p.m. with a roll call from the Mid-Shift officers and On-Duty Supervisor, discussing what occurred during the daytime and early evening hours. After roll call is completed, the Dogwatch Officers take to the streets looking for criminal activity, helping deter crime from occurring, and responding to calls for service. Calls can range from aggressive baby squirrels to dangerous assaults and from welfare checks and medical calls to warrant arrests. Officers conduct traffic stops looking for anything from impaired drivers to suspicious car prowlers looking to steal what

they can under the cover of darkness. We know some of this sounds cheesy, but truly, criminals take advantage of the safety that the night provides due to fewer people being awake and outside, as well as the lack of lighting to illuminate their deeds. It is up to our Dogwatch Officers to be the guardians of the night, finding criminals, deterring them from committing criminal acts ,and holding them accountable for their actions.

Your Dogwatch Officers are committed to ensuring Champlin is a safe community, but we need your help in taking preventive measures. You can do things like putting exterior lighting on your homes to deter criminal activity and to aid in illuminating your house number for first responders, getting to know your neighbors so you can report anything out of the ordinary in your area, and practicing household safety and family member check-ins. Above all, call 911 right away in an emergency or any time you need police assistance.

We have an incredible community and often hear from residents that their neighbors are watching out for one another. Your Dogwatch Officers also frequently hear from criminals who are caught in the act that they should have known better than to come to Champlin. So, rest easy and know that our Officers are out there for you.



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Presidential Nomination Primary – March 5, 2024

Frequently Asked Questions from the MN Secretary of State website:

What is a presidential nomination primary?

A presidential nomination primary (PNP) is a type of primary in which only presidential candidates are nominated. Results of the PNP are used to “bind” delegates for each party’s presidential nominating conventions.

In 2016, the Minnesota legislature passed a law authorizing the use of a PNP beginning in 2020. In contrast with a caucus, a PNP is run by election administrators rather than the political parties, which means that processes for voting are nearly identical to regular elections (e.g. voters can go to their regular polling places, and voters can vote by absentee ballot). Precinct caucuses run by the political parties will still occur, but won’t deal with nominating candidates for president.

When will the presidential primary take place?

March 5, 2024.

Will all parties participate in the presidential primary?

No, only major parties will participate.

Will all parties be on the same ballot?

No, each participating major party will have a separate ballot.

Who decides which candidates will appear on a party’s ballot?

The chair of each party will submit a list of candidates for the party’s ballot no later than 63 days before the date of the presidential primary (January 2, 2024).

What if a candidate drops out before the primary?

Once a party’s list is submitted, changes will not be made to candidates that will appear on the ballot.

Will there be a place to write in a choice or vote for “uncommitted?”

Only if it is requested by the party chair. Party chairs will need to submit names of write-in candidates to be counted seven days before the primary.

Will any other offices be on the ballot?

No, only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.

Who can vote in the presidential primary?

Any voter registered in Minnesota. Voters can preregister through February 13 or register at the polling place when they vote. Note that voters must turn 18 years old by March 5 in order to vote in the presidential primary.

How will I be able to vote in the presidential primary?

Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot in the 46 days before presidential primary day (starting January 19, 2024). A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential primary.

Will other people know which party’s ballot I request?

A voter’s choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list will be provided to the chair of each major political party of voters who selected that party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.

Will there still be precinct caucuses?

Yes, precinct caucuses and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.

Will there still be an August Primary Election and a November General Election?

Yes, the State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 for offices other than President. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the City website’s Elections page at ci.champlin.mn.us/252/Elections.
- Interested in serving as an Election Judge in 2024? Email clerk@ci.champlin.mn.us.
- Find your Minnesota Voter Registration status at mnvotes.org.
- Find your polling location at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

