

# OSAKIS INSIDER



## Osakis City Office

14 Nokomis Street East, PO Box 486, Osakis, MN 56360

Hours – 8 am to 4:30 pm

Phone – #320.859.2150

Angela Jacobson – City Clerk – [cityhall@cityofosakis.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofosakis.com)  
Lynnette Swenstad – Deputy Clerk – [osakiscityls@arvig.net](mailto:osakiscityls@arvig.net)  
Ila Anderson – Admin Assistant – [osakiscityia@arvig.net](mailto:osakiscityia@arvig.net)

Website – [www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com)

great resource for activities, events, council minutes and forms

 (Like us on Facebook – **City of Osakis MN**)  
for updates on city announcements, notices and information

**City Council Meetings** /2nd Monday of the Month / 7:00 pm

**Economic Development Meetings** /4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month / 4:00 pm

**Planning & Zoning Meetings** /3rd Thursday of the Month / 7: 00 pm



## REMINDER TO DOCK OWNERS

When removing your docks & boat lifts this fall, make sure to push them out of the road right-of-way and far enough back to allow the snow plows and graders to get the snow pushed back off the roads adequately.



## FALL YARD WASTE PICKUP

A separate collection of leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste will be collected on

**NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

The yard waste must be bagged separately from other household refuse material and put in **COMPOSTABLE BAGS** and placed by the curbside for pick up at 7:00 am

**ONLY COMPOSTABLE BAGS WILL BE SERVICED**

## SKATING RINK

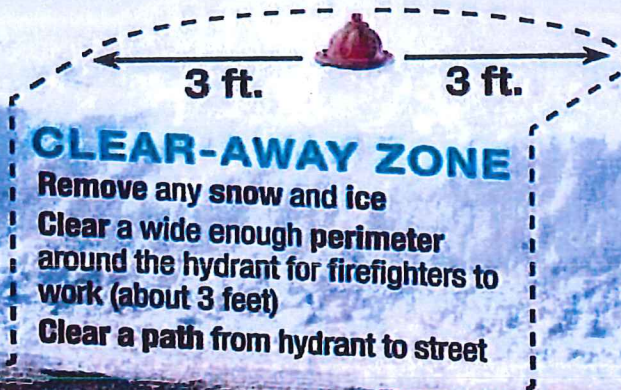
The city skating rink is located on the corner lot of Central Avenue & Main Street West.

The rink is available to the public during the winter months.



## KEEP THEM CLEAR

If there's a fire hydrant near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter:



THE OSAKIS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
WANTS TO REMIND  
ALL RESIDENTS TO KEEP  
FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW.



IT COULD SAVE **YOUR** HOME!





## UTILITY BILLING

### ***If your water bill seems high... CHECK FOR UNSUSPECTED LEAKS***

This would include faucets, toilets, water softeners, outside faucets, and any other water using appliance.

- A 1/16" leak wastes 600 gallons (.8 units) in 24 hours
- A 1/8" leak wastes 2,500 gallons (3.3 units) in 24 hours
- *Typical percentages of water use for a family of four are:*  
Toilet Flushing 40% \* Bath/showers 32% \* Laundry 14%  
Dishwashing 6% \* Bathroom Sink 3% \* Cooking and Drinking 5%

- Check toilets for possible leaks. Place food coloring in the tank of the toilet, **DO NOT FLUSH!** See if the color becomes evident in the bowl of the toilet. If the color is seen in the bowl of your toilet, you have a leak.

## HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE ABBREVIATIONS ON YOUR UTILITY BILL STAND FOR?

RWTR (RESIDENTIAL WATER)  
CWTR (COMMERCIAL WATER)

\*\*\*\*\*

GR35 (GARBAGE & THE SIZE OF YOUR CONTAINER / 35, 64 or 96 GALLON)  
RECY (RECYCLING / 64 GALLON ONLY)  
GTAX (TAX ON GARBAGE)

\*\*\*\*\*

STDR (STORM DRAIN / RESIDENTIAL)  
STDC (STORM DRAIN / COMMERCIAL)  
STDM (STORM DRAIN / MULTI FAMILY)

\*\*\*\*\*

STWF (STATE WATER FEE / ANNUAL CHARGE)  
SWR (SEWER)

\*\*\*\*\*

USER (USER FEE)

\*\*\*\*\*



### **\*\*\*\* REMINDER \*\*\*\***

**WHEN PAYING YOUR BILL, PLEASE RETURN THE SMALL STUB FROM YOUR BILL CARD TO ENSURE PROPER CREDIT TO YOUR ACCOUNT.**

## OSAKIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

If you have any information that can help solve crimes, please contact the Osakis Police Department at 320.859.1204 or discreetly on the Osakis Police Department Facebook page via Messenger or via email at: [osakispd@midwestinfo.net](mailto:osakispd@midwestinfo.net)



### SNOW BIRDS

If you are leaving to go to a warmer climate for the winter and would like the Osakis Police Department to check on your home while you are gone, please fill out the Home Check Request Form at [www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com) (click Resources, Forms & Applications, Services and then Police Home Check Request Form).

**REMINDER: Contact City Hall to be changed to the Seasonal Rate for your Utility Bill.**

### WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

#### Ordinance #71.01 (H)

No parking on public streets **November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>**, between the hours of 12:00 am to 6:00 am, unless so otherwise marked.

#### Ordinance #71.03 A (1)

Whenever existing or forecasted weather conditions require that snow plowing be carried out, no person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle or permit it to stand upon any street or street right of way during periods of snow removal.

**Ordinance #71.03 A (2) ALL VEHICLES WILL BE TICKETED & TOWED FROM THE STREETS**

### ED POLLARD COMMUNITY CENTER

Looking for a large space for that special event, meeting, wedding or family reunion?

**Rent the Community Center for your Event!**

Kitchen facilities, handicap accessible, tables & chairs and much more available.

Contact the Osakis City Office 320.859.2150 for available dates and pricing.





# UPCOMING EVENTS



October 11th - Fire Prevention Open House 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

December 1st – Downtown Holiday Light Parade 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Upcoming events are also listed on the City Website under About/Events

## BUILDING PERMITS

If you are building or replacing any structure, fence, shed, patio, deck etc. or doing any type of remodeling such as new windows, siding, and roofing, remember: **\*\* YOU NEED A PERMIT \*\*** This includes interior remodeling of any building/structure.



Building & Zoning permits are **REQUIRED** in the City of Osakis. Contact city hall for information regarding zoning ordinances, site plans, forms and permits.

**It is always best to check before you start any work to see if a permit is required.**

Information can be found on our city website at [www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com)

**No construction may begin without first securing a building permit from the city. This includes a submitted building permit application, project approval and payment to the city. If a permit is not received prior to starting the project, the permit fee will double and \$1,000.00 fine can be charged.**



## FIRST RESPONDERS

**OSAKIS FIRST RESPONDERS  
ARE IN NEED OF MEMBERS!**



- If you like to help people, can work under pressure and want to be an important part of our community that gives you a rewarding sense of importance – **YOU** are who we are looking for.
- No experience necessary – training will be provided.
- First Responders receive a stipend for calls that are responded to.
- If you have questions about the First Responders, please call Jason Schultz 320.491.8476.
- An application can be picked up at the Osakis City office or found on the city website at [www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com) (click Resources/Forms & Applications/Applications).



## COUNCIL COMMENTS



*Stephanie Finnegan, Tim Thornbloom, Laura Backes, Mayor Dan Wessel, Alan Larson*

**Mayor Dan Wessel:** From the City Hall side, we have three wonderful employees that work hard every day to answer your questions, assist in any matter that may come up, and are willing to help move our city forward. If you ever need your questions answered from the administrative side of the city, please stop by and speak with Angela, Lynnette or Ila. We all seem to be under a lot of stress these days, but all the city employees are here to help.

**Councilmember Laura Backes:** I am fortunate to be the liaison of the Fire Department, 1st Responders and the Osakis Chamber of Commerce. All of which are a vital part of our amazing community. YOU can be involved as a part of that, the 1st Responders are currently looking for members to join their team - contact Jason Schultz at 320-491-8476 if you are interested. The Osakis Fire Dept. will be hosting their annual open house on Oct. 11th from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm, stop by the fire hall and check it out. The Osakis Chamber is very active in making things happen... watch for details on the annual Christmas parade and many other upcoming events. Continue to watch for updates in the Osakis Anchor or check the social media pages of these wonderful organizations to keep updated or you can always call City Hall (320-859-2150) and they will point you in the right direction if you are not computer savvy.

**Councilmember Stephanie Finnegan:** Happy Fall from the Osakis Economic Development Authority!! With the cool weather starting to settle in, it is the perfect time to start planning those projects that have been pushed off to the side. Are looking to update windows, new siding, to build a new home or demo a current homestead and rebuild? The City of Osakis has a Community Housing Program that offers different grants to help with these renovations. In 2022, the EDA was able to offer 5 grants to community members for improvements on their homes totaling over \$40,000. How amazing is that!!! Check out our website at [cityofosakis.com](http://cityofosakis.com) or ask Angela at the Osakis City Hall at 320.859.2150 for more information. If anyone would like to learn more about what is happening in our community, I would like to invite you to our monthly City Council meetings. They are held the second Monday of the month at City Hall starting at 7 pm sharp. Hope to see you there!!

**Councilmember Tim Thornbloom:** We've had a busy summer getting bids for the water plant upgrades. The timeline is set, with a few parts possibly not showing up for up to a year, the water plant should be up and running by the end of next summer! The water tower project is also in the works, if weather cooperates and all other jobs go well there is a possibility of them starting yet this fall! The city maintenance crew has been very busy with all these projects and still finding a little bit of time to work on the new fishing pier down at the beach. Still planning on having it in the water yet this fall!

**Councilmember Alan Larson:** It has been a very busy summer this year. The beach area has had a lot of work done and it looks great! If you see Amber Kral and the crew, give them a big thank you for their hard work. Many are volunteers that came to help them out with the project. The Community Center will be seeing some updates. We are in the process of getting new cabinets for the kitchen along with a new floor scrubber which will help keep the building cleaner. New chairs and tables are also being looked at along with some changes to the paint colors. I hope everyone enjoys the fall.

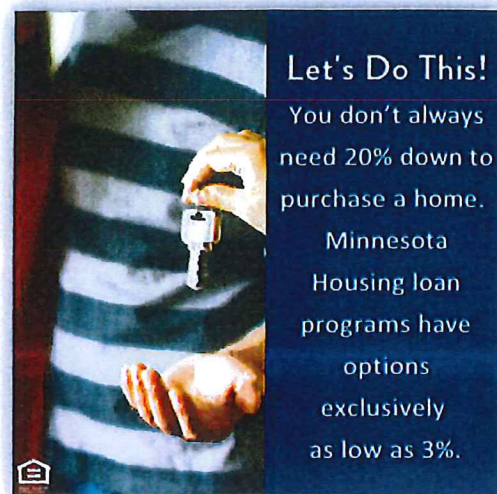


## 2023 Minnesota Housing City Participation Program

The City of Osakis is excited to partner with @Minnesota Housing to make homeownership affordable to more people in Osakis! If you want to buy your first home, Minnesota Housing Start Up loan program can help offering affordable, fixed rates and down payment loans up to \$17,000.00.

Check out the City of Osakis website at [www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com) to check out all the different housing programs available:

- Affordable homebuyer loan programs.
  - Down payment & closing cost loans.
  - Make energy efficiency upgrades affordable and improve your home with fix up programs.
  - Also, check out the Start Smart with Homebuyer Education.
- Or visit: [www.mnhousing.gov](http://www.mnhousing.gov) to find a participating lender.



**Make your dream of homeownership a reality with help from MN Housing and the City of Osakis.**  
**Whether you are a first-time buyer, repeat buyer, or want to refinance, there's an affordable MN Housing program that's right for you.**

## HOUSING GRANT FUND

Housing grant funding is available to qualified residents of Osakis who live in the portion of town in Douglas County to rehabilitate existing homes that need exterior remodeling, improvements, demolition or acquisition, energy upgrades, or even to help build a **BRAND-NEW HOME!**

**GRANT MATCHING PROJECT MAXIMUMS**  
**\$5,000 TOWARDS TEAR DOWN ON A LOT**  
**\$10,000 TOWARDS REMODELING COSTS**  
**\$25,000 TO BUILD A NEW HOME IN OSAKIS**

### INCOME LIMITS FOR 2023 (Subject to change in April)

Family Size 1 & 2:

Household income to qualify: **\$111,700**

Family Size 3 or more:

Household income to qualify: **\$128,455**

For more information or an application stop at City Hall at 14 Nokomis St. East, Osakis or fill out an application on-line at [www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com) (click Economic Development, then Incentive Programs and Grants then scroll down to Community Housing Program)



**The City of Osakis encourages Residents of Osakis in Douglas County to participate.**

**QUESTIONS: Contact City Hall 320.859.2150**



# CITY OF OSAKIS HIGHLIGHTS



## 2024 City Budget

**2024 Preliminary Tax Levy** - The preliminary tax levy provides for the general fund, capital, and equipment replacement.

**2024 Levy** - The preliminary tax levy was set at \$830,359 which provides for the general fund, equipment replacement, and debt service. The levy results in an estimated increase of 3% or \$24,185 more tax collected for the City of Osakis.

Purpose	Actual Levy 2023	Proposed 2024
<b>General Operations</b>		
General Fund	\$692,858	\$717,043
<b>Special Levies:</b>		
Reserve Funds	\$42,316	\$27,316
Debt Levied	\$71,000	\$86,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$806,174</b>	<b>\$830,359</b>

**2024 Budget** - the general fund is the main operating fund of the City and accounts for the core services provided. Taxes are the main revenue source accounting for approximately 44%.

**General Fund Budget Expenditures** - Increased 11% from the 2023 Budget, due to capital outlay costs, repair and maintenance, salaries, and liability insurance.

Budget Expenditure	2023	2024
<b>General Fund Departments</b>		
General Government	\$53,310	\$65,775
City Clerk/City Office	\$198,050	\$214,180
Police/Civil Defense	\$440,573	\$490,972
First Responder	\$30,945	\$26,900
Fire	\$50,930	\$57,525
Parks/Beach/Community Center/Trail/Ice Rink	\$69,305	\$90,530
Street	\$350,480	\$407,433
Other	\$228,603	\$223,535
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,422,196</b>	<b>\$1,576,850</b>

## BUDGET 2024

DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>,  
2023 AT 7:00PM

**General Fund Revenues** increased 14% from the 2023 Budget. Revenue sources of the increase were the Local Government Aid (LGA), Taxes, Small Cities Aid, Police Aid.

Budget Revenue General Fund	2023	2024
Property Tax	\$692,858	\$717,043
LGA	\$521,701	\$591,108
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$1,210	\$1,210
License/Permit/Fines	\$51,500	\$63,000
Police Dept. Aid	\$28,500	\$112,891
Road Maintenance County	\$10,000	\$8,500
Small Cities Aid		\$37,413
Misc. Revenue	\$117,540	\$91,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,423,309</b>	<b>\$1,622,205</b>

### Core City Services Funded with Tax Dollars

- Police/Fire Protection
- First Responders
- Street and Trail Maintenance
- Street Lighting
- Snow Plowing
- Park Maintenance
- Beach Maintenance and Lifeguards
- Planning and Zoning
- Elections
- General City Operations

### Public Budget Meeting on 2024 Budget

The council set a preliminary levy in September, which will appear on the notice of the proposed taxes mailed to every tax payer in city limits. Staff continues to work on the 2024 Budget and will present an amended budget and final levy.

This meeting is the opportunity to provide input on the budget before it is approved for 2024. The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, 7pm at Osakis City Hall.





# OPTIONS ARE GOOD!!!!

## YOU HAVE OPTIONS FOR PAYING YOUR MONTHLY UTILITY BILL WITH THE CITY OF OSAKIS

- 1<sup>ST</sup> OPTION** – Pay with check or cash. Either mail, drop off during business hours or put in the after-hours drop box
- 2<sup>nd</sup> OPTION** – Pay on line at [www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com) (no extra fee to pay this way)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> OPTION** – Fill out the form below and turn into City Hall to have the payment taken directly out of your account.

### AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize the City of Osakis (the City) to make recurring charges for the amount due on the utility billing account(s) referenced below on the billing due date each month. Authorization is given for recurring charges to the checking or savings account listed below, and, if necessary, the City may initiate adjustments for any transactions credited/debited in error. Applications must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, for the automatic payment draft to process as a prenote the next billing cycle and the following month automatic payments will be begin.

I agree not to dispute the City's recurring billing with my financial institution as long as the amount in question was for services rendered prior to cancellation of this agreement. I understand that if I have any problems or questions regarding my utility billing account(s), I should contact city hall for assistance. I agree to not dispute any charges from the City unless I have already made an effort, in good faith, to rectify the situation directly with the City and those efforts have failed.

I authorize this agreement to remain in effect until I provide written notice to the City of my intent to terminate this agreement. To ensure timely cancellation, I recognize that such notification shall be provided at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled transaction(s). Upon termination of this agreement, I will make alternative payment agreements.

I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of the U.S. law. I ask that the data provided in this agreement be handled by the City in accordance with Minnesota Data Practices Act.

I, hereby, guarantee and warrant that I am legal owner of this checking or savings account, and that I am legally authorized to enter into this recurring billing agreement with the City of Osakis.

I AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF OSAKIS TO INITIATE ELECTRONIC DEBIT ENTRIES TO	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECKING ACCOUNT (or)	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVINGS ACCOUNT
For the payment of my utility bill(s)	
CUSTOMER NAME	UTILITY ACCOUNT NUMBER
ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
SIGNATURE	DATE
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ROUTING NUMBER	FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ACCOUNT NUMBER
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND PHONE NUMBER	FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CITY AND STATE

I understand I will receive a monthly statement indicating the payment amount that will be drafted from my account on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

☐ PLEASE check here if you would like a copy of this document for your records.

Tennessean Warning: Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minn.Stat. 13.548), your name, address, telephone number and e-mail are private data. You may choose not to provide some or all of this private data, but it may limit your ability to participate in this program. By signing, you are consenting to allow registration information to be shared with the City Clerk/Treasurer and other registered program participants in order to administer this activity. This consent expires upon completion of this activity.

[www.cityofosakis.com](http://www.cityofosakis.com)

"A Friendly Place to Play and Stay"

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer