

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

Lynnette Swenstad – Deputy Clerk – osakiscityls@arvig.net

Ila Anderson – Admin Assistant – osakiscityia@arvig.net

Website – 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 / 4th Monday of the Month / 4:00 pm

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

Park Committee Meetings / typically 4th Tuesday of the Month / 9:00 am



Mayor's Insider Message

Stephanie Finnegan, Laura Backes, Mayor Judy Dvorsak, Tim Thornbloom, Randy Anderson



Fall – in my opinion, the most wonderful season in Minnesota. Time to slow down and get out to enjoy the fall foliage. I hope everyone had a fun filled summer and were able to enjoy the Osakis festivals!

If the weatherman is correct, we should have some very nice fall weather. Enjoy it! And start preparing for the winter season. As most are aware, we have updated our snow ordinance, please acquaint yourself with it for the upcoming winter season. If you have questions, answers can be found online at the City of Osakis website at www.cityofosakis.com city hall or any council member.

We are also asking any entities that do snow removal to please contact city hall. A list will be compiled to supply to residents looking for your services.

Livestreaming of the council meetings has been going well after our first few glitches. I am hoping that this is beneficial for the community. You will be able to access the meeting on multiple devices: smart phone, iPad, laptop, computer or even TV (if it has that capability). The meetings and recordings are being broadcast on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofOsakis-x2n>. There is also a link to the meeting on the City of Osakis website.

The Park Osagi renovation is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2026. Between generous donations and a grant, the project is 80% funded. We would greatly appreciate any donations which can be made using the QR code on the banner at the park or in this newsletter or drop off at city hall. The new pavilion and amenities will be a great venue to rent for any type of party. It will be a beautiful addition for Osakis residents and surrounding communities.

The water plant project is entering the final phase and should be completed by the end of 2025. We are all happy to see that done.

Thank you to all the people that volunteer! Fire fighters and first responders that unselfishly are there to help us in an emergency. Our Chamber of Commerce puts many manhours in planning, promoting and executing the many events hosted annually. They have a couple upcoming events – Trunk & Treat and the Light Parade just before Christmas. If you are interested in volunteering or participating, please reach out to any Chamber member. If you are interested in learning more about an organization or wanting to volunteer, please reach out to City Hall.

I would, once again, like to express my appreciation to everyone that has helped me throughout this year sharing their knowledge and insight.

Judy Dvorsak - Mayor

CITY OF OSAKIS HIGHLIGHTS



BUDGET 2026

DECEMBER 8TH, 2025
AT 7:00PM



2026 City Budget

2026 Preliminary Tax Levy - The preliminary tax levy provides for the general fund, capital, and equipment replacement.

2026 Levy - The preliminary tax levy was set at \$924,190 which provides for the general fund, equipment replacement, and debt service. The levy results in an estimated increase of 5% or \$44,009, more tax collected for the City of Osakis.

Purpose	Actual Levy 2025	Proposed 2026
General Operations		
General Fund	\$808,822	\$867,831
Special Levies:		
Reserve Funds	\$43,359	\$28,359
Debt Levied	\$28,000	\$28,000
Total	\$880,181	\$924,190

2026 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 47.59%.

General Fund Budget Expenditures - Increased 7.2% from the 2025 Budget, due to capital costs, repair & maintenance, salaries, benefits, and liability insurance.

Budget Expenditure

General Fund Departments	2025	2026
General Government	\$68,175	\$72,685
City Office	\$221,960	\$238,442
Police/Civil Defense	\$482,570	\$546,847
First Responder	\$29,530	\$30,717
Fire	\$58,025	\$47,459
Parks/Beach/Community Center/Trail/Ice Rink	\$179,345	\$208,986
Street	\$410,373	\$383,120
Other	\$250,980	\$295,357
Total	\$1,700,958	\$1,823,613

General Fund Revenues increased 7.2% from the 2025 Budget. Revenue sources of the increase were the Local Government Aid (LGA), Taxes, Grants, Transfers in from other funds, and Misc. Revenue.

Budget Revenue

General Fund	2025	2026
Property Tax	\$808,822	\$867,831
LGA	\$592,016	\$593,531
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$1,210	\$1,210
License/Permit/Fines	\$53,000	\$44,200
Police/Safety Aid	\$28,000	\$29,000
Road Maintenance		
County	\$10,000	\$13,500
Small Cities Aid	\$37,413	\$28,139
Transfer In	\$27,200	\$32,700
Savings funds	\$17,500	\$0
Grants	\$2,000	\$50,000
Misc. Revenue	\$123,840	\$163,590
Total	\$1,701,001	\$1,823,701

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 2025 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 2026 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 2026. The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 8th, 7pm at Osakis City Hall.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WATER METER UPGRADES

The City of Osakis is in the process of upgrading water meter batteries within the city and your water meter may be one of that needs to be upgraded.

If your water usage is being estimated, you could be paying for more than what you are using. Call today to schedule your upgrade appointment.

If you have received a letter, you need to call and schedule an appointment. Please call City Hall at 320-859-2150, to schedule a time to have your water meter battery upgraded.

The process takes 10 minutes and is done by 2 of our Public Works employees.

Appointments are available and there is no cost to the residents for the upgrade.

REMEMBER TO SHOVEL YOUR SIDEWALK Be Osakis Nice. Clean your snow and ice.

Many people, including children, the elderly, and those using wheelchairs and strollers, depend on sidewalks all year long.

To keep Osakis' sidewalks safe and pleasant for everyone, the City of Osakis' ordinance #143 states: "no owner or occupant of any property adjacent to a public sidewalk shall allow snow and ice to remain on the sidewalk longer than 24 hours after its deposit"

The City Council shall designate officials who shall remove from all public sidewalks all snow and ice as soon as possible beginning 24 hours after the snow has ceased to fall. The cost of such removal by the city shall be assessable pursuant to section 90.01 of Ordinance #143.

Questions, contact Public Works at 320-859-1205 or City Hall at 320-859-2150.

It's the neighborly thing to do. And if your neighbor needs help shoveling, consider lending a hand.

Would you consider shoveling sidewalks for those who can't? It's a great way to volunteer or earn money for you or your organization. Email: osakiscityia@arvig.net with your contact information. You will be added to the Shoveling Resource List.



DETECT AND CHASE DOWN WATER LEAKS

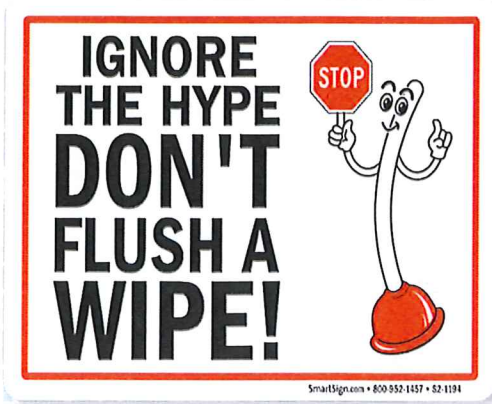
DID YOU KNOW

The average household leaks more than 10,000 gallons of water each year or the amount of water it takes to wash 270 loads of laundry.

START YOUR CHASE WITH 3 EASY STEPS

- 1) Check your utility bill. The average family of 4 has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. Watch your water bill for spikes.
- 2) Check your water meter. Take a reading during a period of time when no water is being used (ie: at night) If the meter does not read exactly the same when you get up in the morning, you probably have a leak.
- 3) Take a toilet test. Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10-15 minutes. If the color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Make sure to flush after to avoid staining.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Most sewer spills are preventable and are the result of misuse of the sewer system.
- Flushed baby wipes and other items cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage each year and do not break down in the sewer system.
- Flushing anything other than human waste and toilet paper down the toilet can damage household plumbing, the environment and the wastewater system.

OK to flush:

Human waste
Toilet paper

**NOT OK to flush:**

Baby wipes, including
paper towels, cotton swabs,
condoms, pads, tampons
tissue/Kleenex, dental
floss, diapers, cleaning wipes

**SELLING PROPERTY IN CITY LIMITS****Inspections required prior to the sale**

Complete Ordinance can be viewed on the city website.

Effective January 1, 2025, a sump pump and sewer lateral inspection is required before selling a home in Osakis. This ensures compliance with Ordinance No. 55 Sanitary Sewers and prevents prohibited clear water discharge into the sanitary sewer system. Steps to complete:

- 1) Hire a licensed contractor to televise your sewer line.
- 2) That thumb drive must be given to the city for inspection along with a report that is filled out by the contractor
- 3) The city will make a compliance determination. If compliant, you will receive a compliance certificate. If non-compliant you will receive a letter explaining the non-compliance.
- 4) If the sump pump is not in compliance, it shall be corrected within 30 days. If it is a lateral sewer line and excavation is required the property owner shall have 90 days to correct.
- 5) Upon repairs, a second video will need to be completed and reviewed for compliance
- 6) Once a compliance determination is made, a certificate will be issued and is valid for 5 years.
- 7) Failure to comply, will result in a monthly surcharge being applied to the monthly utility bill.



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



HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?

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 (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 1st to April 1st**, 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 FOR SNOW REMOVAL

CITY OF OSAKIS ORDINANCES & RULES

INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES: Motor vehicles that are not in running order or are not legally licensed are considered an inoperable motor vehicle according to the city ordinance. Violators will be prosecuted (*Ordinance #90.20*)

NUISANCE PARKING & STORAGE: The outside parking & storage on residentially-zoned property of a large number of vehicles, materials, supplies or equipment not customarily used for residential purposes is in violation. (*Ordinance #90.19*).

- Obstructs views on streets & private property
- Decreases adjoining landowners' and occupant's enjoyment of their property
- Creates cluttered and otherwise unsightly areas
- Prevents the full use of residential streets for residential parking

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.

If someone is doing this for you, please pass on this message.



FALL YARD WASTE PICKUP

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

October 31, 2025

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

ONLY COMPOSTABLE BAGS WILL BE SERVICED

SKATING RINK

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

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



Working SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

"Dedicated To Life Safety"

Daylight Savings Time is November 2nd
This is a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors

MINNESOTA HOUSING 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 \$18,000.00.

Check out the City of Osakis website at 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.
- Check out the Start Smart with Homebuyer Education or visit: 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

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 2025 (changes in April 2026)

Family Size 1 & 2:

Household income to qualify: **\$116,900**

Family Size 3 & up:

Household income to qualify: **\$134,435**

NEW UPCOMING HOUSING GRANT

The City of Osakis received a grant from MN Housing for individuals or families to build a new house in Osakis. The grant would be up to \$30,000 to be used towards building costs. This amount will be determined by the EDA. Qualifying individual or family must meet the following income guidelines:

- 1 person - \$58,950
- 2 people - \$67,350
- 3 people - \$75,750
- 4 people - \$84,150
- 5 people - \$90,900
- 6 people - \$97,650

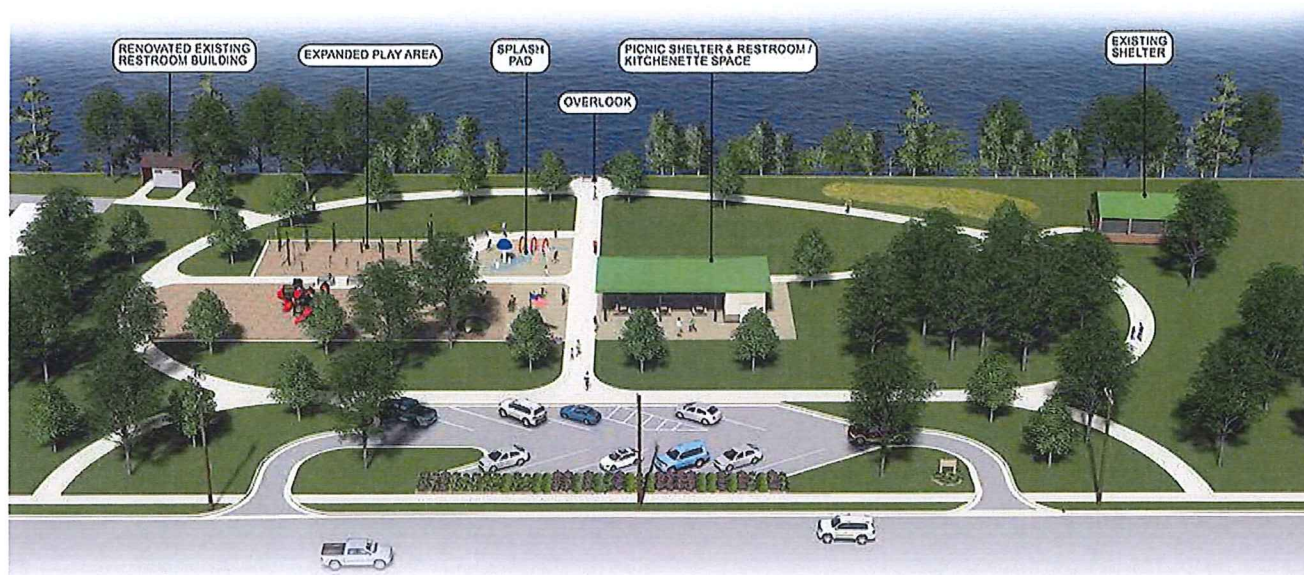
This can be used with the \$25,000 from the Osakis EDA.

Contact City Hall for more information.

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 (click Economic Development, then Incentive Programs and Grants, then scroll down to Community Housing Program) **QUESTIONS:** Contact City Hall 320.859.2150



PARK OSAGI IMPROVEMENTS



PROJECT SCHEDULE

Finalize construction plans – August to November 2025

1. Park Board Update (60% plan review) – September 30, 2025
2. Order prefabricated building – September-October 2025
3. Order Splash Pad – Winter 2025
4. Park Board Update (90% plan review) – October 28, 2025
5. Final Plans – November 30, 2025
6. Bidding – December 2025-January 2026)
7. Construction – Spring 2026

HELP US MEET OUR GOAL

To donate towards this project, please scan the QR code below. This will direct you to Osakis Community Fund with West Central Initiative or make a credit card payment online at wcif.org/fund/ocf. Donations are also accepted at City Hall at 14 Nokomis Street East. We are only \$285,000 from our goal.

