



COMMUNITY NEWS January 2023

Important Numbers

City Hall 515-279-3662
Public Safety 515-277-4453
Emergencies 911

What's Inside

- A Look at Who Took the Strategic Visioning Survey
- 2024 Budget Planning to Begin
- Pet License Renewal
- Meet Your New Public Works Director
- Search for New City Administrator
- Preventing Frozen Pipes
- Snow Removal Reminders
- MLK Day City Hours

Calendar of Events

January 17

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

February 6

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

February 20

- 6 PM City Council Meeting

All City Council Meetings and Public Hearings are held in the City Council Chambers at 1133 66th Street.

A Letter From Mayor Mike Jones

Neighbors,

Wishing you a happy new year! 2022 was a busy year for the City and I wanted to highlight some accomplishments of elected officials and staff. The University Avenue Redesign was brought to substantial completion, we had our first annual Fall Festival, an expanded Windsor Wonderland, passed a 24/7 clean energy resolution, welcomed ALDI to the neighborhood and as part of our strategic visioning process with Drake University, distributed the first citywide survey in nearly five years. This year will be about building. There will be a total of eight street projects undertaken in 2023 including work on 68th Street, Colby, Jefferson, Wilshire, Crocker, Mariner and Sunset Terrace. Most importantly, our goal is for construction to begin on phase one of the \$12+ million reconstruction of 73rd Street between Hickman Road and University Avenue. Work on Colby Park will also begin, with plans for tennis court, parking and accessibility improvements.



We continue to work on a number of outdated areas of need including improvements to our zoning code, website and code enforcement, which we know is of priority to a number of residents. The previously mentioned citywide survey gave us clear ideas on what residents are asking the City to focus on and we'll be discussing that in upcoming newsletters. As always, we are here to serve you and if you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to me or a City Council member. I wish you a healthy and happy 2023!

Public Safety Director to Leave After 4 Years of Service

A giant thank you and congratulations to Public Safety Director Chad McCluskey, who will sadly be leaving us as he has been appointed Chief of Police in Waukee. Director McCluskey was sworn in as the Public Safety Director / Chief of Police and Fire Services in Windsor Heights on May 29th, 2018. Since that time, Director McCluskey set high standards of integrity, respect, and ethics for both Police and Fire and is the model for a leader of law enforcement and public safety in the Des Moines Metro. His last day will be January 12, 2023.

 **WINDSOR HEIGHTS**
the heart of it all
1145 66th St, Suite 1
Windsor Heights, IA 50324

Strategic Vision Survey Helps Guide City Planning

On December 6, City Council was presented with the survey results of the 2022 Visioning Survey. The results will help us collectively create a “big picture” for the future of Windsor Heights. This will drive aspirational and forward thinking to help us grow as a community.

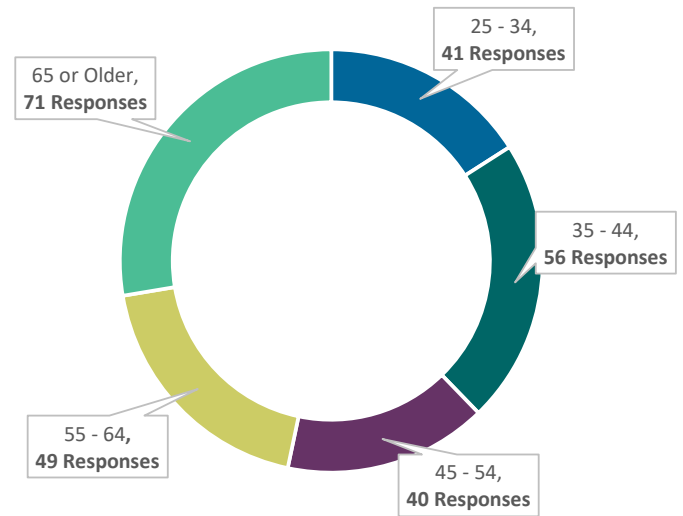
Thank you to all who responded to the survey. We will be sharing closer looks into the results in following newsletters.

A Closer Look at Who Responded to the Strategic Visioning Survey

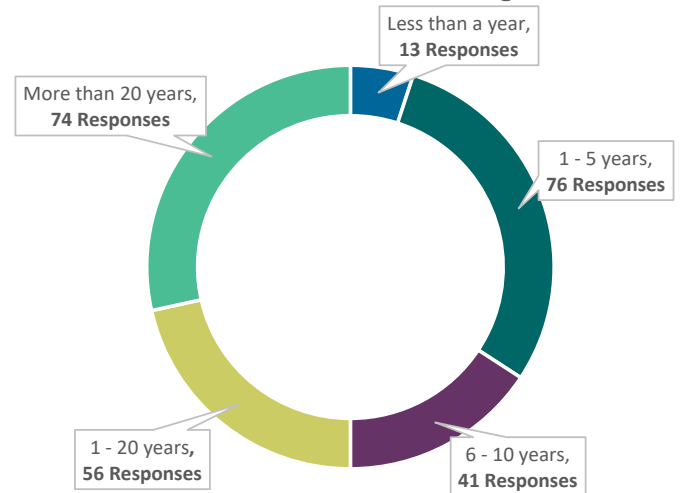
Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey. There was 305 total responses! Here's a closer look at those who responded. We had a great representation across age groups and length of residency. These voices will help shape the future of Windsor Heights.

- **287** were a Windsor Heights resident
- **10** were a Windsor Heights resident and local business owner/operator
- **1** was not a Windsor Heights resident, but is a local business owner/operator
- **2** were a Windsor Heights resident and oversee a local nonprofit
- **5** were not Windsor Heights residents

Age Groups



Years Lived in Windsor Heights



Planning of 2024 City Budget Begins

City staff will begin work on preparing the 2024 City Budget in January. The budget outlines a spending plan for the next fiscal year starting July 1.

Important Dates including public forums are as follows:

February 6 Council Meeting - Budget Presentation (with updated Capital Improvements Plan), Public Forum held

February 20 Council Meeting - Budget & Capital Improvements Plan Review Work Session, Council sets Maximum Property Tax Public Hearing (to be held March 6)

March 6 Council Meeting - Maximum Property Tax Public Hearing is held, Resolution for Maximum Property Tax is approved, Council sets Budget Public Hearing (to be held on March 20)

March 20 Council Meeting - Budget Public Hearing & Adoption of Final Budget





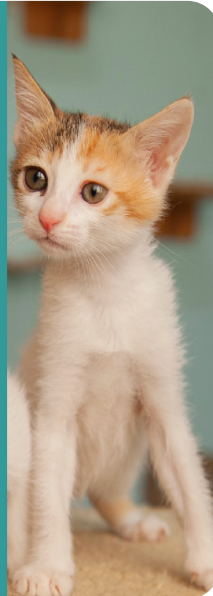
Pet License

Register Between
January 1 - March 31

Spayed/Neutered - \$20

Unfixed - \$30

Fee Doubles After March 31



The time to register your pets for 2023 is coming up. All pet owners must register their animals between January 1 through March 31. A copy of your pet's current rabies certificate is required for a new or renewal license.

The fee for a neutered animals is \$20.

The fee for a non-neutered animals is \$30.

Pet Unlicensed Delinquency Fee -
Double original license fee (after March 31)

The 2023 Pet License Application is available on Windsor Heights website at www.windsorheights.org/354/Animal-Services, click online Pet License Form (Sign in Required). In person registration is also available at Windsor Heights Public Safety Building located at 1133 66th Street. If you have any questions, please call the Police Department at 515-277-4453.



Meet Your New Public Works Director

Jason Roberts is the newest face at Public Works. He will start on January 9, but you may recognize from City events as he has been with the City part-time in Public Works or at his previous job at Hy-Vee.

Jason will be leading Public Works and be responsible for the general maintenance, cleanliness, and efficient operation and performance of the City's infrastructure.

Please join us in congratulating Jason when you see him out and about!

Search Begins for New City Administrator

City Administrator Dennis Durham left Windsor Heights on December 2 leaving a vacancy that Finance Director Rachelle Swisher has temporarily stepped into as Interim City Administrator.

At the December 5 City Council meeting the council approved a proposal from Municipal Solutions, LLC. to conduct an administrator search on behalf of the City. Municipal Solutions has over 300 successful local government executives searches in 17 years and will be performing a 90-day recruitment process with the following steps.

1. Needs assessment interviews with council and city staff
2. Job profile and recruitment
3. Candidate screening
4. Candidate selection and screening
5. Transition and on-boarding assistance

How's Our Newsletter?

Share your comments and suggestions or ask a question! Email Deputy City Clerk Adam Strait at astrait@windsorheights.org or call 515-279-3662

PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

- * Keep garage doors closed
- * Open kitchen/bathroom cabinet doors
- * Let cold water drip from a faucet



When temperatures drop, the risk of your pipes freezing jumps. That's because water expands as it freezes and this expansion can break metal or plastic pipes. This could cause thousands of dollars in property damage. But here are some simple steps from the Red Cross to prevent this problem:

- Keep garage doors closed.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors.
- Let cold water drip from a faucet.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature during the day and night.
- If you are out of town, keep the heat set to no lower than 55 degrees.
- Add insulation to basements, attics, and crawl spaces.

Snow Removal Reminders

1. Don't park on the street within 24 hours of any snowfall
2. Don't push snow from your property into the street
3. Clear sidewalks within 48 hours after snowfall ends



MLK DAY

CITY OF WINDSOR
HEIGHTS BUILDINGS
CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 16



12/19/22 City Council Meeting Recap

- Approved Resolution No. 2022-59 - A Resolution Honoring Public Safety Director Eric "Chad" McCluskey
- Approved Purchase Agreement with Pierce Manufacturing for the Replacement of a Fire Engine in the Amount of \$705,733.00
- Approved RAISE Grant Agreement
- Approved Colby Park Design Contract Amendment
- Approved Strategic Visioning Phase 3
- Discussed Community Events Center Reservations for Special Events

12/5/22 City Council Meeting Recap

- Discussed Future of Colby Park Projects in Regard to the Proposed WRA Sanitary Sewer Project
- Approved to proceed with the design of all phases with Phase 1 construction in summer 2023 followed with construction on other phases as funding becomes available. This would allow for seamless design and consideration of the entire site.
- Approved Resolution No. 2022-54 - A Resolution Appointing Rachelle Swisher as Interim City Administrator and Bill Goodrich as Interim Public Works Director
- Approved Administrator Search Firm Proposal from Municipal Solutions, LLC.
- Approved 2023 Council Meeting Schedule