

The Big Lake Wave

January | February | March 2021



Development in Big Lake

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Housing Development: The City of Big Lake issued 45 single-family new construction building permits in 2020. The Crossings of Big Lake Station Phase II, 38 units of affordable rental townhomes, was also completed last year. In addition, Station Street Apartments was fully permitted to newly construct 105 market rate rental units and Sandhill Villas was approved to newly construct 12 slab on grade homes.

Commercial/Industrial New Construction: Minnco Credit Union completed their newly constructed facility in May of 2020 and opened for business in June of 2020. Big Lake Car Condos, Great River Federal Credit Union, Nystrom & Associates, and Liberty Savings Bank also commenced construction in 2020.

Commercial/Industrial Expansions: There were also some existing facilities that expanded in 2020. These include the City of Big Lake's Wastewater Treatment Facility, the Met Council's Metro Transit Northstar Maintenance Facility, and Cargill Protein's Big Lake Facility.

Development in 2021: This year, the Big Lake Car Condos will continue construction of phases two through six and we look forward to continue assisting Developers in their private commercial, industrial, and residential projects. Community Development will also continue prioritizing the expansion of fast and reliable broadband service throughout the Big Lake Community. Lastly, keep an eye out for updates as the City of Big Lake completes its first Community Brand and Identity Design Project in Spring of 2021!

City Offices will be Closed:

- ⇒ Friday, January 1 - New Year's Day
- ⇒ Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ⇒ Monday, February 15 - Presidents' Day

#KeepBigLakeStrong

The City of Big Lake would like to thank the community for continuing to support local businesses. Patronizing local businesses helps to keep Big Lake strong. For an updated list of restaurants that are currently operating, visit biglakemn.org/561/KeepBigLakeStrong. If you are a local business owner in need of support, reach out to Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek at hklimmek@biglakemn.org or 763-251-2979.



City Summary Budget Statement

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2021 budget information concerning the City of Big Lake to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.6965. The budget below is not complete, however residents can request the complete budget by visiting City Hall (160 Lake Street N, Big Lake) or by contacting the Finance Director via email at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org. The following budget was approved by City Council on December 9, 2020.

General Fund 2021 Adopted Budget

	2019	2020	2021
	Actual	Budget	Adopted Budget
Revenues			
Property Taxes	\$ 2,849,748	\$ 3,190,692	\$ 3,389,743
Special Assessments	4,473	2,000	2,000
Licenses & Permits	604,528	541,490	467,217
Intergovernmental	464,228	431,453	456,284
Franchise Fees	428,317	429,962	432,362
Charges for Services	282,112	257,854	326,406
Fines & Forfeitures	54,786	51,750	61,000
Investment Income	223,852	31,500	17,000
Contributions/Donations	28,024	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	54,867	4,000	1,000
Transfer In from other Funds	600,044	450,000	450,000
Total - Current Year Revenues	\$ 5,594,979	\$ 5,393,701	\$ 5,606,012
Prior year donations - Designed Fund Balance	26,492	22,362	10,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES BUDGET	\$ 5,621,471	\$ 5,416,063	\$ 5,616,012
Expenditures			
General Government			
Mayor/Council	\$ 33,622	\$ 34,171	\$ 34,196
Planning	175,367	156,448	148,132
Elections	1,218	24,550	6,300
Administration/Finance	517,808	542,979	568,387
IT - Computer/Software	66,269	78,300	107,146
Big Lake Community Service Center/Library	64,799	69,491	72,572
Economic Development	121,650	104,528	116,381
Building	199,057	203,664	245,512
Engineering	56,454	86,568	106,860
Fleet/Equipment Maintenance	-	-	144,076
Streets	590,377	631,019	592,198
Parks	520,892	590,739	502,635
Police	1,920,301	2,054,459	2,132,226
Fire	277,670	416,460	417,853
Community - Recreation (other)	97,166	102,783	103,820
Transfers Out to other Funds	654,850	319,904	317,717
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$ 5,297,500	\$ 5,416,063	\$ 5,616,012
Increase (Decrease) In Fund Balance	\$ 323,971	\$ (0)	\$ (0)
Property Tax Levy Requirement to Fund This Budget	\$ 2,878,446	\$ 3,291,711	\$ 3,519,979

Enterprise Funds 2021 Adopted Budget

	Adopted 2021 Budget			
	Water	Sewer	Storm Sewer	Liquor
Sales and Cost of Sales				
Sales- net Loyalty Program				\$ 4,631,678
Cost of Sales (COS)				(3,321,542)
Gross Profit				<u>\$ 1,310,136</u>
Operating Revenues				
Utilities Revenues	\$ 2,247,303	\$ 2,841,055	\$ 260,742	-
Total Gross Profit and Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 2,247,303</u>	<u>\$ 2,841,055</u>	<u>\$ 260,742</u>	<u>\$ 1,310,136</u>
Operating Expenses				
Personnel	669,973	670,031	137,316	571,005
Professional Services	51,050	36,550	2,170	6,700
Operations	409,451	573,570	30,725	191,980
Depreciation	934,061	1,407,595	227,329	74,800
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,064,535</u>	<u>2,687,746</u>	<u>397,540</u>	<u>844,485</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>182,768</u>	<u>153,309</u>	<u>(136,798)</u>	<u>465,651</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)				
Interest Earnings	2,657	6,000	2,525	10,815
Debt Service Interest and Charges	(240,186)	(299,979)	(39,641)	(9,303)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(237,529)</u>	<u>(293,979)</u>	<u>(37,116)</u>	<u>1,512</u>
Income (Loss) before operating Transfers	<u>(54,761)</u>	<u>(140,670)</u>	<u>(173,914)</u>	<u>467,163</u>
Operating Transfer In (Out)	<u>(108,000)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>(32,500)</u>	<u>(525,000)</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (162,761)</u>	<u>\$ (190,670)</u>	<u>\$ (206,414)</u>	<u>\$ (57,837)</u>
2021 Principal Debt Payment	\$ 816,355	\$ 1,119,646	\$ -	\$ 79,937

Congratulations Newly Elected Mayor and Council!

Mayor (4-year term): Paul Knier

Council Member (2-year remaining term): Ken Halverson

Council Members (4-year terms): Sam Hanson and Paul Seefeld

Council Member Halverson was sworn in on November 25, 2020. Mayor Elect Knier and Council Members Elect Hanson and Seefeld will be sworn in prior to the January 13, 2021 City Council Meetings.

Water Shut Offs Begin April 15, 2021

Beginning April 1, 2021, the City of Big Lake will be mailing out notices to property owners for delinquent water bills. Only one notice will be given. If your account is delinquent on April 15, 2021, your water service may be disconnected. Pay online at biglakemn.org or by phone with PSN at 877-885-7968. No longer want to receive the paper bill in the mail? Opt out of the paper bill to receive an email bill and also a 50¢ credit monthly.

Snow Season Reminders

- ⇒ Please keep in mind, property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs to mailboxes only if the snowplow equipment *physically* hits the mailbox or post, and only if the mailbox conforms to City Ordinance installation requirements. Contact Big Lake Public Works at 763-263-2268 with mailbox complaints.
- ⇒ To prevent damage to lawns, landscape, irrigation heads or other items that will get buried under the snow along the curb or edge of the road, it is recommended that residents clearly mark these areas with reflective stakes.
- ⇒ It is illegal to deposit snow on any City street.



Winter Parking

Parking is not allowed on any City street or roadway between November 1 and April 1 of each year, during the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

- ⇒ After a snowfall of two inches or more, all streets in the City will be cleared of all motor vehicles for snowplowing and/or snow removal.
- ⇒ If your vehicle should have mechanical failure and cannot be removed from the street during the required dates/times, please contact the Big Lake Police Department at 763-251-2996 and advise the officer on duty. This may help in avoiding a citation and/or your vehicle being impounded.



Sidewalk Snow Removal



Big Lake is a walkable community and many residents, especially children and those with physical handicaps who cannot drive, rely on the sidewalk system to safely navigate their neighborhoods and access community resources. It only takes one snowy/icy sidewalk section to force pedestrians into the road where their safety is compromised.

With the safety of residents in mind, the City will be sending out its authorized contractor after each snowfall during the winter of 2020-2021 to ensure that all sidewalks are being cleared in accordance with the City's Snow Removal Ordinance. The contractor

will clear all sidewalks that are not in compliance with the ordinance, and the property owners will be billed for the service per the adopted City Fee Schedule. The City will always wait at least 24 hours after a snowfall of two inches or more before sending out its authorized contractor.

The day before the contractor is sent out to "sweep" the City and clear the non-compliant sidewalks, the City will make a public announcement via Facebook and at Biglakemn.org. In addition to this, you can sign up to receive a text message or email alert the day before a scheduled sweep. Visit the following link to sign up to receive an alert: www.biglakemn.org/list.aspx?ListID=268.

Questions? Contact City Planner Lucinda Meyers at 763-251-2977 or lmeyers@biglakemn.org.

Municipal Liquor Store

Lake Liquors would like to thank both staff and customers for all of the support during a chaotic 2020. All profits from your local liquor store are poured back in to the Big Lake community to help pay for infrastructure projects and to reduce the tax burden on Big Lake residents. In 2021 we will continue practicing social distancing and providing hand sanitizer and masks for guests. Staff will continue to work with vendors to introduce new products as inventory shortages on beer, wine, pop, and spirits persist.

In 2021, Lake Liquors will continue to find creative ways to support local organizations including the Scouts, the Big Lake Community Food Shelf, the Big Lake Fire Department, the Tri-County Humane Society, Folds Of Honor, and Breast Cancer Awareness. Note that the annual Spring Wine Sale will take place in March 2021. Keep an eye out on Facebook for details on this event as well as updates on sales, tastings, and product information.

Discount Days:

- ⇒ Monday: Senior Discount (age 62+) - 10% off regular priced items
- ⇒ Tuesdays: Wine Day - 10% off regular priced wines

Regular Store Hours:

- ⇒ Monday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



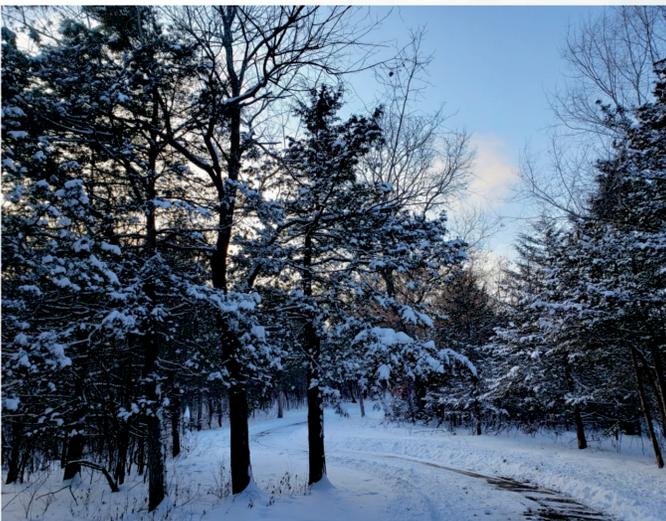
Holiday Hours:

- ⇒ December 24, 2020 (Christmas Eve): 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- ⇒ December 25, 2020 (Christmas Day): Closed
- ⇒ January 1, 2021 (New Year's Day): 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Winter Photo Contest

Big Lake residents are invited to submit pictures that they feel define the Big Lake community this winter season in the 2020-2021 Winter Photo Contest!

Submission of a photo will release the photo to the City of Big Lake. The photo may be used on the City website, Facebook, and other marketing materials. All photos can be submitted to Corrie Scott, at ccscott@biglakemn.org by March 19, 2021.



Ice Skating Rinks

Another warm start to winter means a late freeze for our community's beloved Ice Rinks. We are hopeful they will be ready for public use in mid-January!

Warming House Hours:

- ⇒ Monday - Friday: 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- ⇒ Sat. - Sun. & School Holidays: 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Occasionally due to inclement weather, the Ice Rinks will close. Keep an eye on Facebook for updates.*



Make Sure Your Home Is Safe

The Big Lake community is truly blessed with one of the safest environments to raise a family and to enjoy a high quality of life that is so easily taken for granted. With this feeling of security, many of our residents don't lock their vehicles, or even their homes. The Big Lake Police Department has always dealt with random incidents of unlocked vehicles being gone through and items being taken, but over the past year crime trends have changed.

Groups of criminals are branching out from the Minneapolis Area. They steal a vehicle there, a crime which no longer warrants bail in Hennepin County, and travel to outlying communities. In these communities, they look for unlocked vehicles in driveways. If an unlocked vehicle is found, they search for garage door openers which are used to enter and burglarize the residence while those inside are sound asleep. Often on their way out, they will steal a vehicle from the garage and continue this pattern. The items stolen from homes are usually sold for the benefit of criminal street gangs based in the metro area. To assist us with preventing these types of crimes in Big Lake, please consider the following:

- ⇒ Lock your vehicles and homes and make a pattern of double checking before you go to bed.
- ⇒ Consider purchasing some type of home security camera system.
- ⇒ Report suspicious activity as you see it taking place. This is the most frequent way these criminals are caught.



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at jscharf@biglakepolice.com or give me a call at 763-251-2985.

Joel D. Scharf - Chief of Police

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Updates



The annual Big Lake Community Fair that normally would take place in March of 2021 has been postponed. The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry is hopeful they can still host this event in April or May of 2021. Keep an eye on the Chamber's website at biglakechamber.com for updates.



City of Big Lake Community Gardens

Now accepting applications! Garden plots can be leased for \$30 from May - October. Plots are 10'x20' and located next to Public Works at 18041 198th Ave.

Interested in a plot? Contact Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or 612-297-6331. Applications available at biglakemn.org and City Hall.

A Message from the Big Lake Fire Department

With 2020 coming to a close, the Big Lake Fire Department completed all yearly mandatory testing of equipment including pumps, ladders, and fire hoses, as well as testing air quality on the compressors that fill air bottles for firefighters to breathe through. In addition to equipment testing, all fire department members completed a fit-for-duty physical consisting of blood work, lung function level, hearing, and an EKG. Since the number one cause of line-of-duty deaths for firefighters is heart attack, prevention is essential. Another addition to the fit-for-duty physicals is the implementation of an annual fitness test similar to what is required to join the department.

As the winter season continues, we will concentrate training efforts on medical refreshers, hazardous materials, right-to-know, and blood borne pathogens. Another priority will be staying up to date with the latest recommendations put forth by the MDH and the CDC regarding COVID-19. With COVID-19 still in our community you may see our command vehicle more frequently. This is so we can access a scene quicker to assess the situation.

Below are some important reminders for residents this winter season:

- ⇒ **Avoid overloading circuits** with supplemental heating equipment.
- ⇒ **Refrain from using propane heating units indoors** where carbon monoxide build up can be fatal.
- ⇒ **Consider adopting a hydrant** this winter. This means helping the BLFD to keep a 4-foot area around each hydrant clear of snow. The additional time it takes to shovel out a hydrant is critical when extinguishing a fire.

On behalf of the Big Lake Fire Department, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your families a Happy New Year!

Seth Hansen - Fire Chief



Great River Regional Library



The Big Lake Public Library is open during its regular operating hours. Stop in to browse, check items out, pickup requested items, use the computer and Wi-Fi, or use copy and print services. Visits are limited to 1 hour at a time and masks are required. Curbside pickup is still available upon request. For more information on upcoming events and operating hours call 763-263-6445 or visit griver.org.

Big Lake Group Gardening Program



Are you interested in gardening, but don't have the confidence to take on a garden of your own? Check out the Big Lake Group Gardening Program!

Learn the basics of vegetable and flower gardening in this series presented by the City of Big Lake, Big Lake Community Education, and Sherburne County Master Gardeners.

Workshops take place at the Community Gardens (18041 198th Avenue) and start at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Families and individuals of all ages welcome. There is no cost to attend! **Register at biglakece.com.**



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Big Lake, MN 55309

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The Big Lake Wave is published quarterly by the City of Big Lake to update residents and businesses on city government news.

City Council

Paul Knier, Mayor

612-817-6758, pknier@biglakemn.org

Ken Halverson, Council Member

763-286-8152, khalverson@biglakemn.org

Sam Hanson, Council Member

763-567-8335, shanson@biglakemn.org

Paul Seefeld, Council Member

612-801-7731, pseefeld@biglakemn.org

Vacant Seat, Council Member

Notify Me

Looking for updates on events, meetings, jobs, or emergency alerts? Sign up for text or email alerts at: biglakemn.org/list.aspx.

Contact the City

Phone: 763-263-2107

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

View Meetings

Live on Channel 180 | On-demand video link at city website

City Council: January 13, 27 | February 10, 24 | March 10, 24
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Planning Commission: January 6 | February 3 | March 3
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

BLEDA: January 11 | February 8 | March 8
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Parks Advisory Committee: January 25 | February 22 | March 22
(6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Connect with City of Big Lake

 www.biglakemn.org

 Like us on Facebook, facebook.com/BigLakeMN/

 Follow the Police Dept. on Twitter @BigLakePolice



Big Lake Winter Farmers Market

Third Saturday
Big Lake City Hall
160 Lake St. N, Big Lake, MN
10 AM - 1 PM

November 21 | December 19
January 16 | February 20
March 20 | April 17

 biglakemn.org
cscott@biglakemn.org 