

City of Big Lake Winter 2022 Newsletter



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City Offices Closed

- ⇒ Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve
- ⇒ Monday, January 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ⇒ Monday, February 21 - Presidents' Day

Development in Big Lake

The City of Big Lake experienced strong private investment in 2021! New development increases the tax base so that our residents and businesses pay less, which is why private development will continue to be a priority throughout 2022.

Housing Development: The City of Big Lake issued 90 single-family new construction building permits in 2021 (doubled compared to last year). Station Street Apartments is nearing completion of their 3-phase, multi-family, market rate project adding a total of 105 housing units to the community.

Commercial/Industrial: Nystrom & Associates, Great River Federal Credit Union, and Liberty Bank completed construction projects. Cargill Protein also completed their expansion and Big Lake Car Condos continues toward completion of their 4-phases.

Looking Forward: Have you noticed the grading going on east of County Road 43? We're excited to welcome Premier Marine to their new home within the City of Big Lake! Premier Marine is an international manufacturer of luxury pontoons with projections that will define them as Big Lake's largest employer within 5 years of project completion. We're also excited to welcome Arrow Components as they newly construct their main headquarters in the Industrial Park. Arrow Components manufactures awnings and attachments for the racing industry. Due to this industrial growth, it's expected that residential growth will also continue!

2022 City of Big Lake Election Update

2022 Election Dates:

- ⇒ Primary Election: Tuesday, August 9, 2022
- ⇒ General Election: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Election Judges Needed:

The City of Big Lake is seeking citizens to serve as election judges to staff polling places and assist voters at the upcoming Primary and General Elections. Serving as an election judge is a great learning opportunity for citizens who want to be involved in their community. Those interested in serving as an election judge for the City of Big Lake or those with questions about the upcoming elections can contact City Clerk Gina Wolbeck at 763-251-2973 or gwolbeck@biglakemn.org.

City Summary Budget Statement

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2022 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 or by contacting the Finance Director via email at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org. The City Council approved this budget on December 08, 2021.

General Fund 2022 Adopted Budget

	2020	2021	2022 Adopted
<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Property Taxes	\$ 3,296,205	\$ 3,389,743	\$ 3,509,954
Special Assessments	4,598	2,000	2,000
Licenses & Permits	691,997	467,217	509,002
Intergovernmental	510,368	456,284	454,284
Franchise Fees	436,739	432,362	434,762
Charges for Services	286,333	326,406	271,887
Fines & Forfeitures	50,942	61,000	61,000
Investment Income	151,396	17,000	17,000
Contributions/Donations	24,051	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	23,290	1,000	1,000
Transfer In from other Funds	753,307	450,000	450,000
Total - Current Year Revenues	\$ 6,229,226	\$ 5,606,012	\$ 5,713,889
Prior year donations - Designed Fund Balance	22,362	10,000	10,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES BUDGET	\$ 6,251,588	\$ 5,616,012	\$ 5,723,889
Expenditures			
<u>General Government</u>			
Mayor/Council	\$ 30,000	\$ 34,196	\$ 33,857
Planning	157,804	148,132	185,092
Elections	25,605	6,300	29,300
Administration/Finance	845,802	568,387	589,830
IT - Computer/Software	86,530	107,146	108,809
Big Lake Community Service Center/Library	66,391	72,572	67,409
Economic Development	94,630	116,381	113,737
Building	221,854	245,512	238,421
Engineering	85,414	106,860	100,898
Fleet/Equipment Maintenance	-	144,076	177,450
Streets	590,946	592,198	614,116
Parks	606,119	502,635	525,007
Police	2,060,093	2,132,226	2,227,942
Fire	287,502	417,853	289,248
Community - Recreation (other)	91,294	103,820	106,552
Transfers Out to other Funds	577,328	317,717	316,221
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$ 5,827,312	\$ 5,616,012	\$ 5,723,889
Increase (Decrease) In Fund Balance	\$ 424,276	\$ (0)	\$ -
Property Tax Levy Requirement to Fund This Budget	\$ 3,291,711	\$ 3,512,929	\$ 3,638,582

Enterprise Funds 2022 Adopted Budget

	Adopted 2022 Budget			
	Water	Sewer	Storm Sewer	Liquor
Sales and Cost of Sales				
Sales- net Loyalty Program				\$ 5,020,518
Cost of Sales (COS)				(3,627,184)
Gross Profit				<u>\$ 1,393,334</u>
Operating Revenues				
Utilities Revenues	\$ 2,405,959	\$ 3,289,542	\$ 263,617	
Total Gross Profit and Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 2,405,959</u>	<u>\$ 3,289,542</u>	<u>\$ 263,617</u>	<u>\$ 1,393,334</u>
Operating Expenses				
Personnel	686,072	684,410	161,180	660,603
Professional Services	57,000	42,000	2,170	7,305
Operations	475,686	679,600	33,705	229,388
Depreciation	996,284	1,417,595	227,329	73,778
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,215,042</u>	<u>2,823,605</u>	<u>424,384</u>	<u>971,074</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	190,917	465,937	(160,767)	422,260
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)				
Interest Earnings	1,898	2,000	2,550	10,815
Debt Service Interest and Charges	(218,844)	(271,375)	(39,641)	(7,603)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(216,946)</u>	<u>(269,375)</u>	<u>(37,091)</u>	<u>3,212</u>
Income (Loss) before operating Transfers	(26,029)	196,562	(197,858)	425,472
Operating Transfer In (Out)	(876,313)	(445,656)	(40,000)	(485,000)
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (902,342)</u>	<u>\$ (249,094)</u>	<u>\$ (237,858)</u>	<u>\$ (59,528)</u>
2022 Principal Debt Payment	\$ 791,475	\$ 1,145,446	\$ -	\$ 79,937

2022 Financial Planning and Budget Calendar

The yearly budget schedule is listed below, please watch for information pertaining to the City's 2023 budget and join us. Your feedback is welcomed!

Meeting Dates	Discussion Topics
June	Financial Management Plan review provided to departments
July	Meeting with departments regarding needs and discussion at Council workshops
August	Council workshops to review preliminary budgets continue
September	Council adopts Maximum Tax Levy
October-November	Council workshops on the budgets to find additional savings or services continue
November	Public Input Meeting regarding final levy and budgets for upcoming year
December	Council adopts final tax levies and budgets

Municipal Liquor Store

Lake Liquors is excited to welcome Tamara Bergstrom into the Full-time Lead Clerk position! This past year we received many positive reviews about our friendly staff and we believe that Tammy will help us continue to offer high quality customer service. Lake Liquors wants to say 'Thank You' to everyone who sent in positive reviews.

As many know, there continues to be shortages across our region. Staffing, cans, bottles, and ingredient shortages have hit all segments of our industry. Even with these obstacles, know that customer requests are welcomed, and we will continue to do our best to adjust and bring in new items whenever possible.

Looking ahead for the year 2022 we will be focusing on training in new staff, expanding growth areas such as bourbons and ready-to-drink, utilizing the new freezers, and back-filling or replacing shortages. One thing that will not change, however, is that all profits from Lake Liquors will continue to go back to Big Lake residents in the form of tax relief and infrastructure projects. Thank you for your continued support!

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:

- ⇒ Friday, December 24: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Saturday, December 25: Closed
- ⇒ Saturday, January 1: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fire Department Training and Calls for Service



With the closing of another year, the Big Lake Fire Department completed all annual mandatory testing of equipment including pumps, ladders, fire hoses, and air quality on the compressors that fill air bottles for the firefighters breath 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. Over the next few months, the department will focus on inside classroom training including some of the many state required classes for firefighters including

hazardous materials, bloodborne pathogens, employee right-to-know, and workplace environment.

The Big Lake Fire Department calls for 2021 totaled over 400. This is a significant increase from the previous two years. With continued growth in Big Lake, these numbers will continue to rise, which is typical with communities of larger populations. Although total number of calls increased last year, we experienced no civilian fire deaths and no injuries to our department members, which speaks volumes for the training and mind set of our members that life safety is number one. The Big Lake Fire Department would like to extend a 'Thank You' for your continued support, and we wish you and your families a safe and Happy New Year!

Seth Hansen - Fire Chief

Meet Your Finance Director: Deb Wegeleben



Deb has worked for the City of Big Lake since 2013 and has over 37 years of experience in her field. She was born and raised in Montana, but moved to the area in 2008 to be closer to her sister. Deb's role is to act as the financial advisor for the City Administrator and all other City departments. This involves a myriad of responsibilities including developing the City-wide budget, tax levy, and five year Capital Improvement Plan as well as monitoring the City's cash flow and investments, overseeing the safety program, employee benefits, the City Pay Plan, and so much more.

Deb loves preparing the annual budget and audit as well as the Human Resource function that she performs for the City. When Deb isn't at work, which is quite rare, she loves spending time with her family and sight seeing on the weekends. She has

been happily married to her best friend for 40 years! As Finance Director, Deb strives to deliver financial information that is easy for the public to understand, and she wants you to know that she is just a phone call away if you have questions or recommendations! You can reach Deb at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org or 763-251-2974.

Outstanding Citizen Nominations Being Accepted

Do you know of someone making a positive impact in your community? Someone who's gone unrecognized for all the great things they have done and continue to do to make the City a better place? The City of Big Lake is accepting nominations for the 2022 Outstanding Citizen Award through May 1, 2022. You can find nomination forms at City Hall or on the City's website at biglakemn.org.

Winter Photo Contest

Big Lake Residents are invited to submit pictures that highlight their favorite happenings in Big Lake for the 2022 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 cscott@biglakemn.org by March 18, 2022.



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 early-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.*



Protect Yourself Against Mail Theft



With tax season upon us, we can never be too careful regarding potential criminal activity. The Big Lake Police Department would like to remind the community to be vigilant with your mail during this time. With W-2's, tax statements, and tax returns coming in, please be attentive with happenings around your mailboxes. If you are sending cash or checks through the mail, consider dropping those items off at your local post office. If you are expecting and did not receive a check or other valuable mail, contact the issuing agency immediately. Lastly, be sure to report all suspected mail theft or other suspicious activity to the Big Lake Police Department at 763-251-2996. Be safe and have a great year!

Sam Olson - Acting Chief of Police

Water Shutoffs Begin April 15, 2022

Beginning April 1, 2022, 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, 2022, your water service may be disconnected. Pay online at biglakemn.org or by phone with Invoice Cloud at 866-342-9267. 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.

Big Lake Chamber Community Fair



Mark your calendar for the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and Industry's annual Community Fair on Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Big Lake High School! The City of Big Lake will be there offering prizes and answering questions.

- ⇒ Free Admission
- ⇒ Free Entertainment
- ⇒ Free Giveaways
- ⇒ Farmers Market Vendors



Booth registration is now open. Go to biglakechamber.com for details.



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.

Sidewalk Snow Removal



Big Lake is a walkable community with many residents who 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 send out Public Works staff after each snowfall to ensure that all sidewalks are being cleared in accordance with the City’s Snow Removal Ordinance. Property owners who are out of compliance will be billed for the service per the adopted

City Fee Schedule. To give residents ample time to comply with the Ordinance, Public Works will always wait at least 24 hours after a snowfall of 2 inches or more before performing a scheduled sidewalk sweep.

The day before Public Works performs a sidewalk sweep, the City will make a public announcement via Facebook and 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 for sidewalk sweep alerts: www.biglakemn.org/list.aspx?ListID=268.

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

Snow Season Reminders

- ⇒ Please keep in mind property owners are responsible to clear snow around their mailbox. The City will consider making repairs 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.





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Big Lake, MN 55309

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The Big Lake City Newsletter is published quarterly to update Big Lake residents and businesses on city government news.

City Council

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Sam Hanson, Council Member

763-567-8335, shanson@biglakemn.org

Kim Noding, Council Member

763-238-1875, knoding@biglakemn.org

Paul Seefeld, Council Member

612-801-7731, pseefeld@biglakemn.org

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 12, 26 | February 9, 23 | March 9, 23
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Planning Commission: January 5 | February 2 | March 2
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

BLEDA: January 10 | February 14 | March 14
(6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers)

Parks Advisory Committee: January 24 | February 28 | March 28
(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
10 AM - 1 PM

November 20 | December 18
January 15 | February 19
March 19 | April 16 | *April 23
*April 23 Market at BLHS



biglakemn.org

