

Council Corner

Updates and highlights on Council events, information and more!

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City Hall Hours

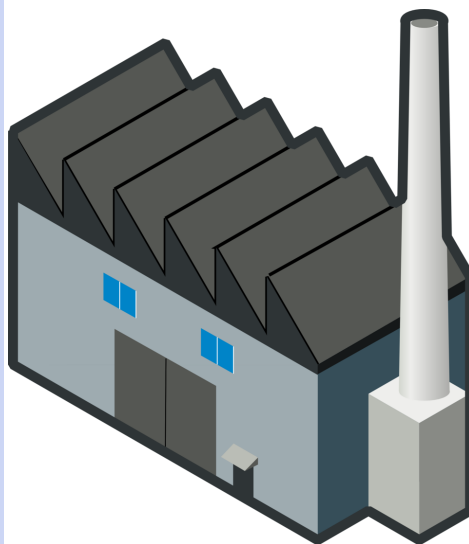
Monday—Friday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Industrial Project Underway in Bondurant

You may have noticed some large earthmoving equipment along Hubbell Avenue, just north of the Metro Waste Facility. The earthwork is moving forward in preparation of the construction of a large industrial project. Work is underway to build an approximate 60,000 square foot industrial facility that would produce and store large, pre-cast concrete structures used in construction projects. The building will be a metal building, approximately 45 feet tall, with windows in the top for natural light and architectural interest.

The landscaping plan calls for berming and trees on the eastern and southern side of the property. The site storm water management includes a retention pond on the northeastern area of the property.



The total site is 28.934 acres. In the future, the developer plans to add a complimentary business in the area. The business will have approximately 25 regular employees and 25 seasonal employees.

The Mayor and Council has a goal of diversifying the City's tax base and this project will help address that. The site plan for the project was approved at the September 18th, 2017 City Council meeting.

CLOSED for the Holidays

In observance of the upcoming Holidays, City Hall will be CLOSED the following days:

Friday, December 22 @ Noon

Monday, December 25

Tuesday, December 26

Friday, December 29 @ Noon

Monday, January 1



Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST)

Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST) is being discussed throughout the metro area. Dallas County recently approved LOSST (November 2017) and the tax will go into effect on July 1, 2018.

Cities with jurisdiction in both Dallas and Polk County want to implement the Polk County tax at the same time. The LOST cannot go into effect until 90 days after passed, which means the election needs to happen on March 6th. In order for that election to happen, City Councils must pass a motion before December 6th, as the election cannot be held sooner than 84 days after the notice of the election is given to the County Auditor by the County Board of Supervisors.

LOST is monitored and collected by the Iowa Department of Revenue. Elections for a LOST are county-wide, however, the tax only applies in the incorporated areas and unincorporated areas of the county where a majority vote in favor. Cities that share borders are required to vote on the issue as one jurisdiction, meaning, Altoona, Pleasant Hill, and Bondurant will be grouped in with Des Moines, Johnston, etc. This vote could technically fail in one city, but if the contiguous cities pass the tax, and it adds up to a majority, it will pass. Mitchellville will only need a majority vote in their city, as it is not contiguous.

LOST cannot exceed 1%. The amount of money distributed to each city is based on population (75%) and property tax levies (25%). The population is based on the most recent census (2010). The property tax levies are based on the time from July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1985.

The distribution formula is below:

$$D = (.75 \times P \times Z) + (.25 \times V \times Z)$$

D = distribution for the taxing jurisdiction

P = jurisdiction percentage of the population

V = jurisdiction percentage of the property tax levied

Z = the total collections for the county in which the jurisdiction is located

Based on this formula, the anticipated revenue to Bondurant would be approximately \$577,355.

The City of Bondurant is located in Polk County. Under State Code, a LOST election may be initiated by motions from the governing bodies and filed with the County Auditor; such motions shall collectively represent at least 50% of the population of the county. The City Councils filing a motion must also notify the Board of Supervisors for that county. Approval of the LOST is a collective decision by the voters of cities with common boundaries. A majority of the voters in the combined contiguous cities must approve the tax before any of the cities can collect it. For this election, all contiguous cities are treated as one incorporated area. Bondurant is a contiguous city.



The City Council chose the following verbiage:

The revenues from the LOST are to be allocated in the City of Bondurant as follows:

60% of said local options sales and service tax to be used for property tax relief.

40% of such revenues for street improvements, other public infrastructure improvements, and capital needs.

Water Disconnect Policy

The City currently has no written disconnect policy and would like to create one as well as update its practices to reflect staff resources and industry practices. The policy was developed in consultation with water staff members and the utility billing clerk. The City currently calls out Public Works employees after hours for water reconnections (the cost of which is approximately \$100) and has experienced numerous times when payments made after hours were with checks that were returned for insufficient funds or where the customer indicates a drop box payment has been made, only to find out the payment had not been made. Additionally, as well as having a consistent payment date (the 15th of each month) customers have a business week or more to pay delinquent bills, prior to any disconnection of service. Below is the policy.



The City sends utility bills on the last day of the month. Payment for this bill is due the 15th of the month. If payment is not received by the 8:00 a.m. on the 16th of the month, a 10% penalty is applied to the account. The shut-off date must be more than a week after the bill due date, but the specific date is determined annually by the Utility Billing Clerk. A calendar of shut-off dates must be provided to internal personnel, posted to the City's website at the beginning of the year, and available on the City's website for reference throughout the year. The shut-off date should also be included on the utility bill post card mailed to the resident. A non-payment fee of \$50.00 is charged to any account on which payment has not been received by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the shut-off date.

Following are procedures for staff to follow for water service disconnects and reconnections:

1. The Utility Billing Clerk will establish a schedule of monthly shut-off dates for the following calendar year no later than November 15th.
2. The calendar will be published on the City's website no later than December 30th for the following year.
3. The Utility Bill will include the disconnect date.
4. The Utility Billing Clerk will maintain a list of any resident who must have access to water at all times due to medical conditions.
5. On the 16th of the month, the Utility Billing Clerk will generate a list of any residents who have unpaid utility bills and send a notice to those residents indicating their water will be disconnected and include the date on which that will happen if the bill is not paid. If payment is not received by the 8:00 a.m. on the 16th of the month, a 10% penalty is applied to the account.
6. At 8:30 a.m., on the water disconnect date, any utility account with an unpaid bill will be charged a \$50.00 non-payment fee regardless of disconnection of service and city staff will begin to shut off water at locations, other than those listed as medically necessary.
7. As utility account payments are made, water will be turned on during the day. Accounts that remain delinquent at the end of the business day will have service restored, after payment, on the next regular business day.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The following meetings will be held in the Council Chambers:

December 4 @ 6:00 p.m.

December 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

For the most current information, go to www.cityofbondurant.com.

Disconnect Day



The City of Bondurant sends out utility bills the last day of every month. Payment is due on the 15th, and on the 16th, we add 10% to your original amount. Each month, a date is determined for "disconnect day" (please note that the date is not the same each month). If a payment is not received by 8:30 a.m. the date listed on the notice that is mailed out to you, the City will charge a \$50 non-payment fee regardless of disconnection of service. City Hall does offer automatic payment. With Automatic Payment, your payment is automatically withdrawn from your account, at the financial institution of your choice, on the 15th of the billed month. If the 15th is on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the withdrawal will be on the following business day. You will continue to receive a billing statement each month so you can make the proper entry in your account register. It will say "Bank Will Pay" in the middle.

We also offer a paperless option for your utility bill. We have the capability to email your bill if you desire.

Pay online with our payment processor, Forte.

Disconnect Day is January 25.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact City Hall.

Public Hunting

The City Council discussed a draft of a hunting ordinance at the October 2nd and October 16th meetings, and approved a first reading of an ordinance at the November 6th meeting with amendments. The ordinance amends the City's Code to permit hunting in areas zoned agriculture as long as:

1. The hunter has a State of Iowa hunting license;
2. The area being hunted is zoned as "A-1 Agriculture" and no hunting occurs within 200 yards of any building inhabited or utilized by people or domestic livestock or a public recreational facility;
3. The hunter uses ordinance appropriate to the prey and hunting season;
4. The owner and tenant, if applicable, of the property have given written permission for hunting to occur on the property;
5. The hunters has provided a copy of the person's individual hunting license, the address or map of where they are hunting, and a copy of the property owner/tenant permission slip to the City Clerk for the City to keep on file.
6. The permit will expire one year from date of issue.

Regional Commercial Area Master Planning

The City Council discussed the need to develop a master plan for the area identified as "Regional Commercial" on the City's future land use map in the Comprehensive Plan at its strategic planning session on December 9th, 2017. The following map shows the area identified as a "Regional Commercial" area.

