

City Information

City Hall hours

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Monday-Friday

Public Library hours

Monday-Wednesday:

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Thurs: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fri: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon

City phone extensions

475-7700

Ext. 10—Police Department

Ext. 11—City Manager

Ext. 12—Planning & Zoning

Ext. 15—City Clerk

Ext. 16—City Treasurer

Ext. 17—Utility Billing

Ext. 18—City Library

City Mailing Address

City of Negaunee

P.O. Box 70

Negaunee, MI 49866

After-Hour Assistance

Call (800)458-3132 or

visit www.cityofnegaunee.com

for forms, details and other

information at any time.

www.cityofnegaunee.com

*Layout & editing by Plan B
Publishing of Ishpeming, MI*

Rail Street changed to one-way

Construction on Rail Street is nearly complete. The most noticeable change is the road turning into a one-way street.

“This change was made for several reasons,” City Manager Nate Heffron said. “First, we really wanted to provide more parking on this street; by placing the parking at an angle we were able to maximize the parking spaces.”

Heffron said the new design took into consideration foot and bike traffic.

“When redesigning the downtown, the City will be looking to make the community more walkable,” he said.

This means the City will be using planning methods recently adopted to take into consideration non-motorized modes of traffic. Since the Iron Ore Heritage Trail runs parallel to Rail Street, some new opportunities to employ these planning methods were made available.

The trail was moved to one side of the street and widened to allow for two-way bike and foot traffic. A bike repair station will be installed, and a rolled curb was installed to both pre-

vent cars from driving onto the trail, but still allow access to overflow parking on the opposite side of the street.

Lighting will be installed along this street that matches Iron Street.

“We are really getting to the point to begin to delineate where the downtown is,” he said. “We want to give the downtown its own feel, and we are accomplishing this with uniform applications.”

Heffron said this will include uniform lighting, trash cans, benches, bike racks and other items.

According to Heffron, a dual car charging station will be installed along this street as well.

“We are Moving Forward with where the future is heading, we have to begin to accommodate for all travelers,” he said.

Part of the charging station will be covered by a grant offered through the City’s energy provider WPPI. Other communities that have installed these stations have seen good use, drawing customers to the downtown for shopping and a bite to eat along their journey.

Senior center renovations underway

The Negaunee Senior Center is undergoing major infrastructure and façade improvements designed to continue vital services for senior citizens in and around the City of Negaunee.

The most obvious of these improvements is the paving and reconfiguration of the street known as “No-Name Street.” Now a parking lot, the former street offers more than 30 new spaces for parking, walkable surfaces, accessible sidewalks and curbing. In addition, the parking lot will allow for only one-way traffic. With this construction, both the Jackson/Case Street and Tobin/Peck Street intersections have been cleaned up and made safer for pedestrians and cars.

Other noticeable changes to come are a new sign and the installation of a new façade. The façade will be more durable and low maintenance. The material used will resemble a wood surface and cover the majority of the surface areas.

However, some architectural stone veneer will border the base of the building and lend some accents to windows. This approach better fits with the historic aesthetics of the downtown.

Internal components include upgrades to one restroom, making it truly handicapped accessible, new kitchen equipment, security improvements to the front desk and enhancements to both entryways.

The overall project is estimated to cost \$474,000, with much of the funding coming from a Michigan Economic Development grant. The City looks forward to an open house as soon as concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic is better under control.

The Negaunee Senior Center is seeking donations for its part of the grant match to assist with the building improvementst; for details, call Kristy at 475-6266.



City of Negaunee Municipal News

July 2020

Volume 15, Issue 1



Nominating petitions available Voting, election info provided

Nominating petitions are available at the City Clerk's Office for the following offices to be elected on Tuesday, November 3, 2020:

- Two (2) non-partisan vacancies on the City Council for a three-year term.
- One (1) non-partisan vacancy on the Board of Review for one unexpired term.

- Three (3) non-partisan vacancies on the Board of Review for a three (3) term.

To be eligible for the City Council or the Board of Review, a person must be a registered and qualified elector of the City of Negaunee. Also, for the Board of Review, a person must be a property owner assessed for taxes of the City.

Nominating petitions shall be signed by not less than fifteen (15) registered and qualified voters of the City of Negaunee.

Completed nominating petitions must be filed at the City Clerk's office no later than 4 p.m. local time, Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Absent Voter, Voting Information

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson mailed Michigan Absent Voter Applications

Election Information

Precinct Locations

Precinct 1: Negaunee Senior Center, 410 Jackson Street

Precinct 2: Lakeview Elementary School, 200 Croix Street

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voting Opportunities

August 4, 2020
State Primary Election

November 3, 2020
General Election

to all registered voters and should have been received by May 26, 2020. If you have not received an application, you may request one by email at clerk@cityofnegaunee.com or visit www.michigan.gov/vote and choose the option "Apply for An Absent Voter Ballot Online." To

access, you must have a Michigan Driver's License or State ID.

Completing your application is as easy as 1-2-3:

1—Check the appropriate box/boxes for the ballots that you are requesting

2—If you want to be placed on our Permanent AV List for future elections be sure to check the box

3—Sign and date the application

Completed applications can be mailed to Negaunee City Clerk, P.O. Box 70, Negaunee, MI 49866 or can be placed in the City of Negaunee Utility payment drop box located outside of City Hall.

Additional information regarding in-person voting will be posted on www.cityofnegaunee.com and Facebook (City of Negaunee) as it becomes available.

For details, call the city clerk's office at 475-7700, ext. 15.

Active military shut-off protection available

In accordance with State legislation, a qualifying customer may apply for shut-off protection for electric service by notifying the City that he or she is in need of assistance because of a reduction in household income as the result of a call to active duty status in the military.

Call the utility billing office at 475-7700, ext. 17 if you believe you qualify for this program.

Shut-off protection available

All senior citizens over the age of 65 are encouraged to notify the City of their eligibility for shut-off protection of utility services. Contact the billing office at 475-7700, ext. 17.

Negaunee Farmers Market now open

The 2020 Negaunee Farmers Market is now open every Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. through September 30.

The market, which is located in Miners Park off of US-41, offers a variety of vendors.

Please be aware that face coverings are required in the market area, as well as social distancing.

COVID-19 utility forbearance has ended

Delinquent utility accounts will be subject to late fees and disconnection notices after July 11. The COVID-19 forbearance has ended.

If you are having trouble paying your bill, please contact DHHS at 228-9691 or other agencies listed on the back of your utility bill. Call the billing office with questions at 475-7700, ext. 17.

Street, utility projects proposed for future

The enclosed map represents a proposed street/utility project that will begin with engineering in 2021, with the hopes of construction to take place from 2022 through 2024.

This will be a multi-year, phased-in project. The streets chosen for this project are based on surveys of both water and sewer mains that determine what needed to be replaced due to the age and inefficiency of the infrastructure.

Different funds will be used to assist in completing this project, including a USDA Rural Development grant. Additional streets may be added based on available funding. Streets and sidewalks will be directly impacted, meaning they will be replaced.

City staff is proposing resurfacing 5.21 miles of streets and replacing up to 35,000 feet of sidewalk under this project.

“Much of the project will depend upon funding,” said City Manager Nate Heffron. “We are hoping to receive a 45 percent grant from the USDA, but we are also hopeful the Street Maintenance Millage will be renewed. Without it,

some streets may be cut from the project.”

According to the engineers working on this project, the total costs of the streets portion is around \$680,000. The Street Maintenance Millage renewal is estimated to be in \$1.6 million of revenue if passed.

“We won’t be using all of the renewal money on this project,” Heffron said. “We definitely want to be able to repair other streets in the community during this eight-year stint.”

City records indicate that since 2017, 2.62 miles of streets were resurfaced.

For the past two years, the City of Negaunee has been implementing its “Moving Forward” initiative.

Under this program, the City has been working hard to improve much of its infrastructure.

“We were looking for both water leaks and water-infiltration,” Heffron said.

In general, for every gallon of water sold, it should yield one gallon of sewer produced. Records indicate this is not the case because of old and worn out lines.

For example, the City purchased 107,040,000 gallons of water in 2019,

but only sold 71,404,000 gallons—meaning that there’s a loss of 36 million gallons due to leaking mains with only a 67 percent efficiency rating.

This equates to approximately \$88,637 more spent on purchasing this water per year.

As for sewer, the city sent 205,598,000 gallons to the processing plant in 2019. However, the city only billed residents for 68 million gallons, which means the City is paying to process 137,598,000 gallons more due to water seeping into our sewer mains from the surface and ground water.

This costs the City more than \$50,000 more per year and is only 33 percent efficient.

This does not reflect how the sewage treatment plant is processing our waste; it reflects how old and ineffective our sewer mains are.

Some are 100 years old, well past their life expectancy.

Financing this project through the USDA for 40 years (the average of a loan) will save \$3,545,480 in water and more than \$2 million in sewer costs.

Library hopes to expand curbside service in July

The Negaunee Public Library has reopened for curbside services. By the time this newsletter article reaches you, dear reader, the library will likely be in Phase 2 of its reopening plan, which allows expanded curbside services.

Call the library at 475-7700, ext. 18 or email the library at npl@uproc.lib.mi.us to reserve a pick-up time. Patrons can return items in the dropboxes, and pick up items curbside. The library anticipates offering copying, faxing and printing services in July, along with a summer reading program and interlibrary loans. For details, visit the library’s Facebook page or call.

Author James McCommons will hold an online reading and Q&A ses-

sion at 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 18. McCommons, a professor at Northern Michigan University, wrote “Camera Hunter,” a biography of local photographer George Shiras III. The work is a 2020 Michigan Notable Book. More information will be available on the library’s Facebook page.

The Friends of the Negaunee Public Library will hold a book sale during Oktoberfest this year, as the Pioneer Days book sale was cancelled.

If the library is in Phase 2 of its reopening plan, donations for the sale will be accepted. Please, no Reader’s Digest condensed books, encyclopedias, moldy books. The sale will be held at the Negaunee Eagles Club on Iron Street. Details will be available as the sale draws near.

Senior center opening for service appointments

The Negaunee Senior Center has entered its next phase of reopening, which is for essential services by appointment.

Beginning on July 6, the center is open for Footcare, Blood Pressure, Tax Assistance, Legal Clinic and other one-on-one services. Clients must make an appointment in advance and will be screened at the door with a contactless temperature thermometer and health questions.

Masks are required for both staff and patrons and strict social distancing measures are in place. The nurses and other professionals who are offering the essential services also will be wearing masks, and will be disinfecting between each client.

For details, call the center at 475-6266.

Two millage renewals on November 3 ballot

The Negaunee City Council recently voted to begin the official process to renew two millages supported in the past by the residents of Negaunee.

This process will begin with setting the official language, the only difference now is the timeframe of which the millage would be collected. Both millages are set to expire in 2021; this new language would set both to expire in 2029, an additional eight years.

What is a millage? A millage collects an additional \$1 for every \$1,000 of your taxable value. For instance, if your home tax is \$50,000, you would pay an additional \$50. However, City Manager Nate Heffron said the people of Negaunee are already paying this. In most cases, if you have a home loan, part of your payment includes your property taxes. Meaning, on average, each homeowner will pay \$14.25 per month.

What is the millage for? In Negaunee there are two millages—the Street Maintenance Millage and the Equipment Millage. The Street Maintenance Millage is used to maintain streets. Since the last millage, the City has been able to leverage these extra dollars with grants and pave 2.62 miles, with plans to pave at least 7.9 miles over the next eight years. Without this extra funding, paving projects could be pushed out as much as 10 to 20 years.

Is the Equipment Millage used to replace aged and failing items? Recently the City was able to purchase two new plow trucks, two police vehicles, a used dump truck, a sander truck,

a fire department tanker, make repairs to our vactor truck (used for sewer and water issues) among others.

“Much of the City’s equipment has lasted longer than expected, some coming in at 45-years old or older,” he said. “However, it’s well past the time that new investment is made to ensure efficiency, safety, and cost effectiveness.”

According to the DPW, when equipment is down because of constant repairs; this will slow down the rate of service for an array of activities (i.e. snowplowing and street sweeping). This additional funding will go towards new snow plows, fire department equipment, police equipment and to replace various other equipment.

“Without this extension, the City runs the risk of not having adequate equipment needed to provide the basic services, like fire safety,” Heffron said. “Just imagine if any of our fire trucks fail or were down for some time. I wouldn’t want to be the one that had a fire at my house.”

Both measures will be on the November 3 General Election ballot.

Street Improvement & Rehabilitation Millage Renewal

Good streets contribute to the quality of life in the City of Negaunee and help to maintain property values within the City. The purpose of this proposal is to allow the City to continue to improve and rehabilitate City streets. This money will be earmarked and used for only this purpose.

BALLOT PROPOSAL CITY OF NEGAUNEE

SHALL THE CITY OF NEGAUNEE BE AUTHORIZED TO

RENEW THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AND LEVIED MILLAGE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF CITY STREETS FOR UP TO TWO (2) MILLS (\$2.00 PER \$1,000 OF TAXABLE VALUE) FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT (8) YEARS, BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1, 2022, AND RUNNING THROUGH THE 2029 TAX LEVY YEAR (INCLUSIVE)? THE MILLAGE WILL RAISE APPROXIMATELY \$199,541 THE FIRST YEAR.

Capital Equipment Millage Renewal

The purpose of this proposal is solely to allow the City of Negaunee to purchase and extend the life of equipment for those departments (fire, police and public works) who are charged with the protection of life and property of the citizens and visitors of Negaunee. This money has to be earmarked and can only be used for this purpose.

BALLOT PROPOSAL CITY OF NEGAUNEE

SHALL THE CITY OF NEGAUNEE BE AUTHORIZED TO RENEW A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AND LEVIED MILLAGE FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR UP TO ONE AND ONE HALF (1 ½) MILLS (\$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF TAXABLE VALUE) FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT (8) YEARS, BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1, 2022, AND RUNNING THROUGH THE 2029 TAX LEVY YEAR (INCLUSIVE)? THE MILLAGE WILL RAISE APPROXIMATELY \$153,341.17 THE FIRST YEAR.

Summer property taxes due; deferment info available

Summer Property Taxes are due by September 14, 2020 to avoid penalties.

Eligible taxpayers may defer their summer taxes by submitting an application for deferment to the City Treasurer before September 14, 2020. To qualify, gross annual household income cannot exceed \$40,000 and the applicant must:

- Have a total gross household income of \$40,000 or less for the preceding tax year AND is totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, hemiplegic, quadriplegic, OR
- Is an eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, or eligible widow or widower, OR
- Is at least age sixty-two.

A deferment pushes the due date of the summer taxes to February 14, 2021 without penalty or interest only. The property taxes assessed are still owed and payable to the city treasurer. This does not exempt the taxes owed.

For details, call 475-7700, ext. 16. Deferment applications can be obtained at www.cityofnegaunee.com