

City of Underwood

Fall 2025

Council

Mayor Anna
Kiser
218-770-2627

Tim Hammes
608-797-6253

Logan Solberg
218-770-9641

Todd King
218-205-4335

Nicole
Woodman
218-770-6359

Staff

City Clerk
Judy Everett
218-826-6686
clerk@ci.underwood.mn.us

Maintenance
Superintendent
James Hanson
218-731-6843

Liquor Store
Manager
Lorrie Poser
218-826-6792

Population

361

FROM THE MAYOR

Residents of Underwood

Happy Fall!

The City has been approved for the grant and loan from the Public Facilities Authority in the amount of \$5.54 million for our new water treatment facility. We are looking to start construction this fall with a proposed completion early 2027. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to get this major project going.

To continue our services at the highest level expected and after review of budgets, water and sewer rates will have to increase. Expect a 5% increase to both. We will have final numbers in December.

The renovations to the beach and dock areas have been completed. We hope you take advantage of the improvements and enjoy. The landscaping at the Foss Log Cabin has been completely redone and looks great.

We are also working on street repairs as budgets allow. Even a small section is very costly, so please be patient.

All of our streets are posted at 20 MPH. Many drivers are going much faster, causing concern for walkers, students and daycares. **Please slow down!**

As always, a big thank you to everyone who worked so hard on our Harvest Festival. Also, to our Community Committee who work on our holiday festivities.

Have a safe Fall and hopefully another easy Winter – Ann Kiser

Daylight savings time ends on Sunday November 2.

Turn your clocks back 1 hour Saturday November 1!

School is on! Watch for children!



Please watch for children and obey the traffic laws in town. We want our community safe for everyone!

PARKING RESTRICTIONS BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 1!

SNOW REMOVAL AND PARKING

Ordinance #76

1. No vehicles shall be parked on any residential street in the City of Underwood from November 1 through March 31, except in those areas zoned as commercial and except for visitors to the City of Underwood.
2. The owner of any vehicle violating this ordinance will be issued a citation by the designated City Official.
3. Any vehicle, for which a citation has been issued, if not removed from the street within 12 hours of the issuance of said citation, shall be towed by a commercial towing service at the owner's expense.
4. Vehicles which have been towed pursuant to this ordinance shall not be released to the owner until the owner provides the commercial towing service with proof of payment of the fine issued, pursuant to the citation and payment of all towing charges to the commercial towing service.
5. The fine for issuance of the citation shall be in the amount of \$50.00 for each offense. The third offense within any November 1 through March 31 season will result in the vehicle, owned by a person receiving three citations, to be towed immediately.
6. It is incumbent upon the owner of the vehicle for which the citation is issued to provide proof satisfactory to the Clerk of the City of Underwood that said vehicle is owned by a visitor to the City of Underwood.

Please also be aware that the City Council adopted Ordinance #86 which restricts parking on downtown Main Street. It will be posted as a Tow Away Zone.

ORDINANCE #86

STREET PARKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SNOW REMOVAL ON MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

1. No vehicles shall be parked on the area of Main Street from Centennial Avenue south to Highland Avenue from November 1 through March 31 from 2:00 A.M. to 7:00 A.M. The area will be posted as a "Tow Away" zone.
2. The owner of any vehicle violating this ordinance will be issued a citation by the designated city official.
3. Any vehicle found violating this Ordinance shall be towed by a commercial towing service at the owner's expense and shall be surrendered only to the duly identified owner thereof upon payment of the cost of towing and storage. Any damage occasioned to any such vehicles by such towing operations shall be the responsibility of the owner or operator thereof, and no liability for damages shall be imposed against, nor shall any damage be assumed by the City of Underwood.
4. Any person violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, subject to fine as afforded under law.
5. The removal of the violating vehicle does not preclude prosecution for violation of this Ordinance.

ANNUAL NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule is designed to protect people who may have trouble paying their utility bills in winter. The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule applies from October 15 to April 15 of each year. The rule, established by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, means that you're utility cannot disconnect your residential electric service during the winter if the customer meets the following requirement:

1. Utility disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source;

2. The customer has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the utility (Note: Customers receiving “any form of public assistance, including emergency assistance, are deemed to have qualified for inability to pay status”);
3. The household income of the customer is less than 50% of the state median income level, as documented by the customer to the utility; and
4. The customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household...

If you have trouble paying your utility bill, local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. The State Department of Human Services recommends you call the county in which you live. Understand that this does not apply to those households where the primary heat source is not dependent on water.

Important Notice

*****ANNUAL STATE FEE*****

Safe drinking water fee approved

The 2025 Minnesota State Legislature passed a bill increasing the safe drinking water fee to help all public water systems get the support they need to provide safe drinking water everywhere in Minnesota. The fee is now set at \$15.22 per water service connection per year.

DWP activities supported by the fee include inspections, technical assistance, required Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and other sample collection and analysis, training and other support to enhance water systems’ capacity to meet SDWA requirements. The fee increase accounts for the significant inflation that has occurred since the last increase in 2019, projected and potential deep reductions in federal funding, increased lab costs for drinking water testing, the need for drinking water data updates and improvements, and the numerous changes in SDWA, including new rules and enforcement requirements that have occurred and are being planned in the next few years.

The fee increase will go into effect Jan. 1, 2026. This new fee will be reflected on the May 2026 utility bill.

*****PAYMENT OPTIONS** -- As always, you can put your payment in the drop box outside of the office. You can also make payments online through our new website (cityofunderwood.com and click payment options), or you can call the office with your card info. We do not keep credit card information on hand, so you must have your card when you call. Credit/Debit card payments do have a processing fee, so be aware of that. If you prefer, we can make arrangements to have your payment automatically deducted from your checking/savings account. There is a little paperwork involved, so call the office if that is the route you want to go. You will still get a bill either by paper or by email so you will know the amount deducted from your account.

For those of you who are behind on your payments for whatever reason, we can set up a payment plan for you. Call the office and one can be set up for you.

*****PREMISES IDENTIFICATION** –The Minnesota State Fire Code Section 505.1 requires address numbers on all buildings, new and existing, to be visible from the street. If you do not have a number, please contact the office as soon as possible. James has noticed there are several homes where the identification number is either missing or not visible from the street. This is a safety issue for you!

Upcoming Events

HALLOWEEN PARTY The Underwood Lions will be hosting a Halloween Party on October 31 at the Underwood Community Center. For ages 14 and under. Hot dogs, chips, beverages and treats will be available for all the goblins. The party will start at 4:00 p.m. until everything is gone. Stop in before trick - or- treating!

VETERANS DAY Veterans Day is on Tuesday November 11. The Scouts will be serving Turkey dinner at the American Legion November 11 Veterans Day, from 5-8pm. Free will donation. They will also have Christmas wreaths available at the dinner.

SANTA DAY AND COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS Santa Community Christmas is Saturday November 29. A time to celebrate and spread Christmas cheer in Underwood. Keep an eye out for details on Facebook, papers, and flyers.

FROM THE MAINTENANCE OFFICE

HYDRANT FLUSHING will be during the week of October 6-10, weather permitting. James will be doing this throughout the week since flushing takes tens of thousands of gallons of water and doesn't want the tower to run too low. If you have rusty water, the best thing is to let it run a bit before using it. We urge people not to wash clothes during the scheduled days, especially whites. Flushing will loosen sediment and could cause discoloration.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS – Per Ordinance #45 Property owners are reminded that they are responsible for removing snow, ice, debris from their adjoining sidewalks. The City will not remove it unless there is a safety issue. The cost to the property owner is \$80.00 per hour, one hour minimum and unpaid fees can and will be assessed to the property.

LOW WATER & HIGH-WATER USAGE - A leaky toilet can use up to 200 gallons a day. That's 6000 gallons a month that you are paying for. You may not hear or see it, but a few drops of food coloring in the tank will tell you. If your toilet bowl water turns color, you have a leak. Check out "Fix a Leaky Toilet". Not using enough water can also cause problems as the waste doesn't get flushed completely. For 1 person households especially, please be aware of this as back up can occur. Under 500 gallons of usage per month will not necessarily keep your sewer cleaned out enough to eliminate sewer backups.

BURN SITE RULES - Please remember that this site is for yard waste only. Household garbage, tires, appliances, building material, etc. are not allowed at any time. THIS SITE IS FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY ONLY. NO COMMERCIAL DUMPING WILL BE ALLOWED.

Complete copies of the rules are available at the clerk's office, liquor store and post office. Please note that access to the burn site will depend on weather and road conditions.

SAFETY is everyone's responsibility. Please supervise children at the playground and the beach. There is No Climbing allowed on the Caboose!

SIREN TESTING - On the first Wednesday of every month at about 1:00 p.m. the County does a sound test of the sirens. Remember that the sirens are geared towards people who are outside and need to get to

shelter. You may not hear it in your home. Be mindful of our ever-changing weather and if you know that there may be storms in the area be ready to take shelter.

FROM THE LIQUOR STORE

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW LIQUOR STORE EMPLOYEES:

NEW LIQUOR STORE CLERK – Brianna Moen

My name is Bre Moen and I am super excited to come on board with the Underwood Liquor Store. I pride myself in customer service and am eager to help in the community. I am a proud mother of 7 children and family is very important to me. We enjoy going to the lake, riding bikes at Glendalough, and attending surrounding community events. My favorite football team is OTC Bulldogs, because my twin boys play for the team. I am looking forward to meeting new people in Underwood and have a blessed day!

NEW LIQUOR STORE CLERK – Pat Claypool

Hello, I am Pat Claypool. I have lived in the Underwood area for 4 years. I have a small hobby farm with poultry and 4 ponies. My hobbies are historical research, walking in the countryside, swimming and boating. I am enjoying meeting new people at the Liquor Store!

NEW LIQUOR STORE MANAGER – Lorrie Poser – Will be joining the staff as Liquor Store Manager beginning in early October.

FROM THE OFFICE

NEW WEBSITE IS NOW AVAILABLE – Check out the new website at cityofunderwood.com. Contact information and the ability to pay your utility bill is on there now. Judy will be adding the Council Meeting minutes and agendas and overall updating over the next few months. If you have anything you would like to see there, please contact Judy at the office.

OFFICE CLOSINGS - Unless there is an emergency, I will post office closings on the door. Regular hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY CENTER – The Community Center is available for rental. If you have a graduation, baby shower, reunion etc., please call the office at 218-826-6686, to reserve a day for your event. Cost is \$100.00 rental plus a \$50.00 returnable deposit.

NOTE: We will not be renting out the new tables and chairs.

COUNCIL MEETINGS - Unless otherwise posted, City Council Meetings will be held on the second Monday of every month starting at 5:30 PM.

EMAILING UTILITY BILLS – We are encouraging residents to sign up to have their utility bill emailed to save on postage. Please call the office and let Judy know.

CONCERNS FROM THE STAFF & COUNCIL

The Council and staff have received calls and notes regarding a number of concerns. The most frequent has been regarding animal violations. We do have an Ordinance that prohibits excessive barking, running at large and not cleaning up after your pet!! There have been a number of calls regarding stray cats as well. Even if the dog or cat is spayed or neutered, they are not allowed to be large. Keep your pets indoors

if not restrained or tied up. We strongly urge you to not feed these animals. They will enter open garages, sheds etc. and their waste can spread diseases not only among household pets but people as well. We have a live trap to hopefully capture them and take them into the Humane Society.

There are also a number of yards that have an undue amount of trash, yard waste, lumber and other garbage that are not being cleaned up. We are asking that property owners please make an effort to clean up.

CITY COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance: Kiser & Woodman

Street, Lighting, Parks & Recreation: Hammes & King

Water & Sewer: Hammes & King

Personnel & Safety: Council

Building & Equipment: King & Solberg

Zoning: Kiser, Hammes & Hanson

Zoning Administrator: City Clerk

*Have a safe winter
and Happy Holidays!*

*CITY OF UNDERWOOD
120 MAIN STREET SOUTH
PO BOX 106
UNDERWOOD, MN 56586*