



CITY INSIGHTS



Spring-Summer 2023

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‘It was an easy choice to stay in Moorhead’

Jeremy and Monica Stensland knew it was time to downsize. Their family no longer needed the six bedrooms in their central Moorhead home, but they didn’t want to leave Moorhead. So, in 2022 they built a new home on the south side of the City.

“Our previous home was built in 1955, and we lived there for 21 years. We just didn’t need all the space we had and wanted a more open concept. It was an easy choice to stay in Moorhead.” Monica said. “Our family loves it here, and the schools are excellent. We were so happy to receive the Welcome Home Pass. We used it for golf and the pool, which made building a new home here an even better idea.”

The Stensland family affirm the value of living in Moorhead. There are numerous opportunities available for owners of both new and existing homes that make living here even better. Take a look at some of the “Moorhead Perks” that make owning/building a home here a great idea:

Make Moorhead Home Property Tax Rebate

The Make Moorhead Home Property Tax Rebate is a property tax break for the first two years after a new home is constructed. The rebate saves a new home buyer thousands of dollars. On a new \$300,000 home, the total value of the rebate may be as much as \$7,500. After the rebate period, the homeowner pays the same tax rate as other homeowners. The owner doesn’t need to be a first-time home buyer; any newly constructed home in Moorhead qualifies the first two years after construction is completed.

No application is needed—when a building permit for a new home is issued, the

property is automatically enrolled in the rebate program. The rebate of the eligible portion of the tax payments will be refunded in December of each year of eligibility. This program is available through Dec. 31, 2024.



Welcome Home Pass

The Welcome Home Pass for buyers of newly constructed homes allows Moorhead’s newest neighbors to experience all that Moorhead Parks and Recreation has to offer. The pass offers the homeowner and everyone living in the immediate household access to golf (season pass) and swimming (family pass), and recreational programming (12 months) for both kids and grownups.

For additional details about the Make Moorhead Home property tax rebate and the Welcome Home Pass, please visit makeMoorheadhome.com.

Owners of existing homes can also take advantage of some great options that can provide resources for those who want to remodel or add onto their homes:

- » Low-interest Neighborhood Impact Program loans in partnership with Gate City Bank
- » City of Moorhead Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) loans
- » Clay County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Rehabilitation loans
- » Minnesota Housing Fix Up loans

For more information on these and other options, visit

cityofmoorhead.com/home-improvement

HOMESTEAD CREDITS CAN HELP SAVE MONEY — PAGE 2

Looking for a great job? Work for the City you love!

The City is currently hiring to fill more than 100 temporary, spring/summer positions in addition to filling several full-time opportunities.

Our seasonal positions offer fun, rewarding work, and the majority are outside, so employees can enjoy the sunshine while working. **The following departments and locations have job opportunities in a variety of seasonal positions:**

- Parks and Recreation
- Swimming Pools
- Meadows and Village Green Golf Courses
- Forestry
- Park Maintenance
- Streets and Sanitation
- Engineering and Wastewater/Stormwater
- Hjemkomst Center

BUILD
Community AND
Your Career

Our temporary/seasonal employees also enjoy these perks while working for the City:

- Positive, inclusive and team-oriented culture
- Flexibility to support work-life balance
- Ability to make a difference in your community
- Training and career development

Full-time positions offer additional perks and benefits where you can grow your career to new heights as part of a great team.

Apply and learn more about job opportunities, salary, and hours at cityofmoorhead.com/jobs

Skateboarding features to be installed at 3 locations

Several Moorhead parks will receive new skateable features this summer, thanks to a community effort to revive skateboarding in Moorhead. A local group of active and former skateboarders has been working with Special Projects FM to transport, refurbish and coordinate placement of donated skatepark components from Watertown, SD. Watertown is building a new replacement concrete park and graciously donated the old skateboard features to Moorhead.

Working with the community, the Moorhead Parks Department has identified three locations to implement the skateparks: Hjemkomst Landing, 202 1 Ave N; Queens Park, 3201 20 St; and two underutilized basketball courts at Romkey Park, 800 19 St S.

Moorhead Parks and Recreation has also partnered with local organization Sleep Talk Skate to offer Skateboarding Camps in two sessions – June 3-11 and July 15-23 – for youth K-12. Registrants will team up with experienced skateboarders to learn kick turns, balance and board control, ollies and dropping in before working on other new tricks and skills.

Learn more and register at moorheadparks.com.

Minnesota property tax refunds benefit both homeowners and renters

Homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund:

To qualify, you must have owned and lived in your home on January 2, 2023. The refund amount is based on household income (less than \$128,280 for 2022), tax filing status, and property taxes paid on principal residence. The maximum refund is \$3,140.

Special Homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund:

This refund is based on the increase of your property tax over the previous year regardless of household income. You must have owned and lived in your home on both January 2, 2022, and January 2, 2023, and your property taxes on your home must have increased by more than 12% and at least \$100 from 2022 to 2023, not due to improvements you made to the property. The maximum refund is \$1,000.

Renter's Property Tax Refund:

Renters may also qualify for a Renter's Property Tax Refund. You will need your 2022 Certificate of Rent Paid. The maximum refund is \$2,440.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

Visit revenue.state.mn.us for filing information. You will need information from your 2023 Clay County property tax statement (mailed in March/April 2023) and your 2022 federal income tax return to fill out Form M1PR.

TIMING:

The filing deadline is August 15. You have one year from the due date to file and claim a prior year refund.

"Onward Moorhead: A Plan in Action!"



The City of Moorhead's Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap that helps the City implement the community's vision over the next 10 years. Community members, businesses and others worked with the City to create the Plan. Here are recent or upcoming projects and initiatives that advance the Onward Moorhead plan:

New dock at M.B. Johnson Park: The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission announced the City of Moorhead received a Legacy grant of \$17,000 to purchase an accessible boat dock allowing residents to boat on and explore the Red River. This grant opportunity was made possible by the designation of M.B. Johnson as a regionally significant park in 2016. The new dock will provide a space to tie boats, improve ease of boarding boats, and provide more opportunities for recreation on the Red River – which is a designated state water trail.

Natural Lawn Options: Natural lawns are planned, intentional and maintained plantings such as grasses (not including turf grass), wildflowers, ferns, and shrubs. Input received from the community during the Onward Moorhead Comprehensive Plan process and resident surveys showed strong support for natural lawn options from the community. A recent City Code amendment provides property owners the option to incorporate natural plantings on private property without a permit.

Citizens Government Academy: The City of Moorhead held its first Citizens Government Academy in March/April 2023. Twenty-six Moorhead residents spent seven weeks learning about the inner workings of municipal government, including operations and policymaking. City leaders shared factors that shape the work of their respective departments, some detail about operational and strategic decision-making, and even what possibly lies on the horizon for the City. Graduates were honored at the April 24 City Council meeting. Watch next January for an opportunity to sign up for the 2024 Citizens Government Academy.

5 BIG IDEAS

that will guide Comprehensive Plan activity over the next five years:

1 TRANSFORM

Downtown Moorhead into the 'heart of the community'

2 INTEGRATE

a mix of mutually supportive land uses and experiences in redevelopment areas

3 CONNECT

neighborhoods to parks and trails and provide multimodal access across the City

4 EMBRACE

resilient environmental and equitable solutions to ensure a greener community

5 BUILD AND NURTURE

local businesses as key partners

If you would like to review the Plan or the Plan process, check out the Onward Moorhead webpage: cityofmoorhead.com/onwardmoorhead

GET READY! Cleanup Days coming in early May

Furniture, household goods, and appliances will be collected at single-family residence curbs during Cleanup Days on your scheduled garbage day in early May beginning at 5 am at no additional cost.

Cleanup Day will be your garbage day,

OPPOSITE your recycling week.

- » If you are on A Week Recycling (red), your Cleanup Day will be on your garbage day the week of May 1-5.
- » If you are on B Week Recycling (blue), your Cleanup Day will be on your garbage day the week of May 8-12.
- » **EXCEPTION:** Oakport neighborhood will be May 16, same as recycling day.

Apartments are not eligible for curbside pickup.

All residents may bring excess garbage to the Resource Recovery Center at the times noted below, free of charge with proof of residency.

For more information, visit cityofmoorhead.com/CleanupDays or call 218.299.5347 from 8 am-noon or 218.299.5465 from noon-3:30 pm.

Cleanup Days require a huge amount of effort, coordination, and cooperation.

Please follow these guidelines:

- » Tires will NOT be collected at the curb. Homeowners will need to dispose of them at retail tire stores or the Resource Recovery Center for a fee: \$4 for passenger tires; \$13.75 for truck tires.
- » Sort appliances, furniture, household garbage, metal, etc. into piles; different trucks collect specific categories of items.
- » Use disposable containers such as cardboard boxes (no loose garbage please).
- » Do not set items out more than one day earlier than your Cleanup Day.
- » During Cleanup Days, crews will not return to pick up garbage set out after your garbage day.
- » Two appliances per household will be picked up free of charge. Remove refrigerator and freezer doors for children's safety.
- » Do not place food or waste inside appliances.
- » No commercial waste will be accepted.
- » Keep garbage totes at least 4 feet away from Cleanup Days items.
- » Empty propane tanks will also be collected (valves do not need to be removed).

MAY CLEANUP DAYS SCHEDULE					
M	Tu	W	Th	F	
1	2	3	4	5	A Week Recycling: Clean up Day on your garbage day, May 1-5.
8	9	10	11	12	B Week Recycling Clean up Day on your garbage day, May 8-12.
Oakport neighborhood Cleanup Day is May 16, the same as recycling day.					

If you would like to get a jump on spring cleanup, bring furniture, household goods, and excess garbage to the Resource Recovery Center (3322 15 Ave N) from April 24-May 12 from 8 am-4 pm, free of charge. (This also applies to apartments.) Fees will apply for demolition/construction materials; proof of Moorhead residency (i.e. driver's license) required.

Crews will not collect the following items curbside:

Demolition/construction materials:

Materials include lumber, vanities, cabinets, concrete, sheet rock, fencing material, windows, doors, and asphalt shingles.

Take items to:

- » Clay Demolition Debris Landfill, 6 miles west of Hawley and ¼ mile north of Highway 10; 701.642.3207
- » Resource Recovery Center, Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm, first and third Saturday of each month, 8-11:30 am; 3322 15 Ave N, Moorhead; 218.299.5016. Enter the 15 Ave N entrance.

Loads need to be hand-unloaded and fees will apply.

Residential electronics:

computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals, televisions, fluorescent bulbs, LEDs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries.

Household chemicals:

paint, stain, varnish, automotive fluids.

Take items to:

- » Resource Recovery Center, Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm; first and third Saturday of each month, 8-11:30 am; 3322 15 Ave N, Moorhead, MN; 218.299.5016. Enter through the 15 Ave N entrance.



PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

Emerald Ash Borer

In February 2023, City of Moorhead Forestry staff discovered emerald ash borer (EAB) larvae during annual winter tree pruning activities. This finding was confirmed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in March.

Emerald ash borer is an invasive wood-boring insect that kills ash trees; if susceptible ash trees are left untreated, 90 percent will die within 8-10 years.



Moorhead has approximately 26,500 trees; 26 percent are ash. Forestry has developed a long-term management plan to deal with EAB. The goal is to preserve as many public ash trees as possible. Most healthy ash trees on public property with a trunk diameter of 11 inches or greater will be treated to kill the beetles and larvae and protect the tree. All ash trees on public property with a trunk diameter of 10 inches or less will be removed.

Residents with private ash trees need to decide if they plan to retain their trees. There are treatment options that are very effective. If trees are not treated, removal and replacement with a non-ash tree species is recommended as soon as possible.

Additional resources can be found at the City of Moorhead Forestry website: cityofmoorhead.com/departments/public-works/forestry

Questions? Call 218.299.5422.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture also has helpful resources – including information for homeowners at mda.state.mn.us/eab



Curbside yard waste collection

Effective Sept. 1, 2023, Moorhead residents must use compostable/paper bags or reusable cans for curbside yard waste collection; yard waste in plastic bags will no longer be collected after that date.

The primary reasons for the change include alleviating the litter and costs of disposing clear plastic bags, minimizing maintenance and down time of the yard waste processing equipment, and eliminating contamination of the finished compost. The ultimate goal is to make the City's composting service more efficient and sustainable.

Acceptable options for yard waste include:

- Reusable cans with lids (up to 32 gallons in size)
- Paper lawn bags
- Compostable lawn bags that are BPI-Certified and ASTM D6400 standard compliant (with the BPI stamp on the bag)
- Dropping off lawn waste at the City compost site, or dumpsters at Woodlawn Point (418 Elm St), the Public Works Shop (700 15 Ave N), the Resource Recovery Center (3322 15 Ave N), or Southside Regional Park (corner of Parkview Drive and 23 St S).

BPI-Certified compostable or paper lawn bags can be purchased at Moorhead's Ace Hardware, Menards, or online at various retailers.



No Glass in the Blue!

City of Moorhead residents may no longer put glass into blue recycling bins.

Why not? According to Minnkota Recycling – which processes the City of Moorhead's recycling – glass is expensive to recycle, can create safety issues in the recycling process and contaminates the recycling stream.

There are two options for residents:

1. Take glass to glass-only dumpster locations (Woodlawn Point, 418 Elm St; Public Works Shop, 700 15 Ave N; or the Resource Recovery Center, 3322 15 Ave N). The glass will be repurposed.
2. Put glass in with regular trash.

QUESTIONS? Contact the City of Moorhead Public Works Department at 218.299.5347 or 218.299.5448.



Sewer issues: The City of Moorhead provides a 24-hour on-call service

Sewer issues are something that no homeowner ever wants to have. Heavy rainfall, loose debris, tree roots, and pipe deterioration or damage can cause sewer systems to not function properly. The City of Moorhead provides a 24-hour, on-call service to provide guidance to homeowners with sewer problems.

If you experience slow drains or sewer back-up, there are some important steps to take:

- Contact the City at 218.299.5386 (prior to calling a plumber).
- City staff will inspect the sewer main and determine if the blockage is in the main line or your private service. The sewer from a building to the sewer main is owned and maintained by the property owner. The City is responsible for the sewer main, which is generally located in the middle of the street.
- If the problem is in the City sewer main, City staff will correct the problem at no cost to you.
 - » The City cannot reimburse you for contractor expenses incurred before contacting the City. Also, if a plumber has made repairs before the City evaluates whether the problem may be a City responsibility, the City cannot pay the plumbing costs.
 - » If a problem in the City sewer main resulted in damage to your property, contact the Wastewater Division for direction in filing a claim with the City's insurance provider. An adjuster will review the claim to determine liability.

Sewer odors can occur when basement floor or other drain traps dry up and allow sewer gas to enter buildings. Other times, a blocked roof vent may prevent sewer gas from releasing outside. In order to prevent sewer odor:

- Periodically check seldom-used drains and refill with water.
- Add a tablespoon or two of vegetable oil or mineral oil to slow evaporation.
- Keep roof vents free from obstructions, such as leaves, snow and ice.
- If sewer odor persists, call the City at 218.299.5386.

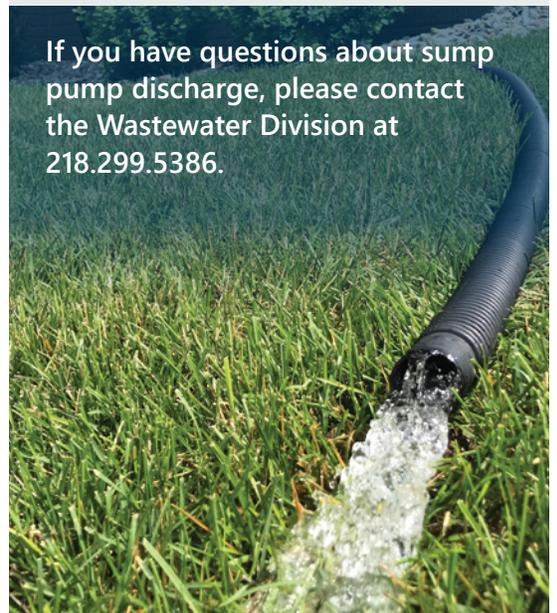
Make sure sump pumps are disconnected from sanitary sewer system

It's spring, and that means it's time for Moorhead residents to disconnect sump pump hoses from the sanitary sewer system. Drainage should be directed to the street, backyard or side yard (please be courteous to your neighbors when choosing where to discharge). Sump pump discharges to the sanitary sewer during this time period overload the sanitary sewer system, which leads to basement back-ups for both you and your neighbors.

Residents may request a seasonal waiver to allow sump discharge into the sanitary sewer from November 1-March 31. Because the risk of significant rain events is lower during this time, the sanitary sewer system is capable of handling this extra water. That changes during the spring and summer months.

We appreciate your cooperation to ensure the capacity of our wastewater treatment.

If you have questions about sump pump discharge, please contact the Wastewater Division at 218.299.5386.



56560 Rummage Sale**Saturday, May 20, 8 am-2 pm;****Cullen Hockey Center, 707 Main Ave SE**

Join the fun for this community-wide sale, open to businesses getting rid of clearance items or citizens just clearing out their garages. Admission is **\$1/person** (ages 17 and under are free). Concessions and/or food trucks will be available.

Plant + Seed Exchange**Sunday, May 21, 11 am-7 pm****Woodlawn Park Heritage Garden and Amphitheater**

Have plants in your flowerbed that need to be split? Extra annuals that don't fit? Participate in the Plains Art Museum's annual plant and seed exchange! No invasive varieties or non-labeled plants. Send questions to amccann@plainsart.org

Dive into Summer**Tuesday, June 6, 6:30-8:30 pm****Moorhead Municipal Pool, 800 19 St S**

Kick off summer and enjoy a night of family fun at the pool with free open swim, chips and soda while supplies last, and a chance to win some great summer prizes! Children 8 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Season pool passes will be available for purchase.

Moorhead Farmers Market**Tuesdays, June 6-September 26 (no July 4); 3:30-6:30 pm****Hjemkomst Center Parking Lot, 202 1 Ave N**

Find vegetables, fruit, baked goods, honey, jams, pet products and hand-crafted items available for purchase. SNAP Benefits are accepted with matching dollars courtesy of Hunger Solutions of Minnesota. Enjoy live Music at the Market 4-6 pm each day!

Moorhead RiverArts**Five Tuesdays, 5:30-8 pm**

June 13: Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome + Nordic Night
Memorial Park, 111 8 St N

June 27: Gina Powers Band + Petting Zoo - Memorial Park, 111 8 St N

July 11: Heart&Soul + Barrel Car Rides
Heritage Garden and Amphitheater, 400 Woodlawn Dr

July 25: Hiahli + Fishing Clinic - Memorial Park, 111 8 St N

August 8: Front Fenders + Dunk Tank - Memorial Park, 111 8 St N

Join us for cultural performances, artist-led demonstrations and activities, inflatable games, a photo station and more fun for everyone! Memorial Park nights feature free carriage rides. Activities are subject to change. Non-profits, organizations and individuals can sell goods, share their expertise or provide a fun, interactive game or activity for attendees. Call 218.299.5078 to get involved!

Safe City Nights**5:30-7:30 pm**

(Sponsored by Moorhead Police, Moorhead Police Athletics League and Moorhead Parks & Rec)

June 19: Romkey Park

June 26: Robert Asp Elementary

July 17: Queens Park

Neighborhood events featuring public safety vehicles, coloring contest, games, free open swim, bike repair, helmet fitting, door prizes and more! Food and treats for all attendees.

Tennis Carnival**Friday, June 23, 9-11 am****Horizon Middle School Tennis Courts, 3601 12 Ave S**

The free Tennis Carnival is for youth of all ages and skills!

FM Kicks Band Summer Concerts**June 22, 7pm:** Gooseberry Park, 100 22nd Ave S**July 20, 7 pm:** Gooseberry Park, 100 22nd Ave S**August 6, noon-5 pm:** Gooseberry Park, 100 22nd Ave S**September 9, 3 pm:** Memorial Park, 111 8 St N

These concerts feature vocal and instrumental arrangements of classic and contemporary big band music composers. Enjoy a variety of music including funk, rock, blues, swing and more. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Scandinavian Festival**Friday-Saturday, June 23-24****Hjemkomst Center, 202 1 Ave N****Summer Splash****Thursday, July 13, 2-4 pm****Moorhead Municipal Pool, 800 19 St S**

Splash into an afternoon of **FREE** fun at the pool with games, a diving contest, water inflatables, and more!

Night to Unite**August 1**

Plan a family-friendly neighborhood gathering to connect with your neighbors. Register events at cityofmoorhead.com (search Night to Unite) to receive a party planning kit. Call 218.299.5143 for more information.

Doggy Dip**Monday, August 14, 3:30-7:30 pm****South Park Wading Pool, 2102 14 St S****Northeast Park Wading Pool, 1817 8 Ave N**

\$5/dog. All proceeds benefit Moorhead's dog parks! Dogs should have a collar, carry ID tags, be properly licensed, vaccinated and in good health to swim.

Greater Moorhead Days**September 7-16 / Various locations**

Celebrate our amazing community with Greater Moorhead Days! Enjoy a variety of fun and exciting events for all ages, including the Greater Moorhead Days Parade, Midco Kids Fest, the Medallion Hunt and more! This 10-day celebration is the perfect time to express your Moorhead pride. Find more events and information at moorheadparks.com.

Citizens Police Academy**September 14-November 16, 6-9 pm**

The Academy will lead citizens to a better understanding of what it is like to be a police officer. Experience K-9 demonstrations, SWAT, narcotics investigations and more. Apply at cityofmoorhead.com (search Citizens Police Academy) or call 218.299.5143. Class size is limited.

River Paddling Excursions**Every other Wednesday, May 31-August 23, 5:30-8 pm****Hjemkomst Landing, 202 1 Ave N**

Join these relaxing downtown river tours as local guest speakers share their expertise! All skill levels are invited. Each session begins at 6 pm with the basics of canoeing and kayaking. Participants must register in advance and should arrive at 5:30 pm. **\$10/person** if bringing your own kayak/canoe; **\$15/person** with vessel rental. Find the schedule and register now at moorheadparks.com. For more information, call 218.299.5340.

City Calendar

cityofmoorhead.com/calendar

MAY

- 1-5 Cleanup Days for Recycling A schedule
- 8-12 Cleanup Days for Recycling B schedule
- 16 Oakport Cleanup Day
- 20 56560 Community Rummage Sale
- 21 Plant and Seed Exchange at Woodlawn Park
- 29 Memorial Day | City offices closed | no garbage*

JUNE

- 6 Farmers Market opens at Hjemkomst (Tuesdays through September 26—not on July 4)
- 6 Dive into Summer at Moorhead Pool
- 13 RiverArts at Memorial Park
- 19 Safe City Nights at Romkey Park
- 23 Tennis Carnival at Horizon Middle School
- 26 Safe City Nights at Robert Asp Elementary
- 27 RiverArts at Memorial Park

JULY

- 4 Independence Day | City offices closed | no garbage*
- 4 MBA Moorhead Proud 5656OOH & AAH 4th of July fireworks celebration
- 11 RiverArts at Woodlawn Park
- 13 Summer Splash at Moorhead Pool
- 17 Safe City Nights at Queens Park
- 25 RiverArts at Memorial Park

AUGUST

- 1 Night to Unite
- 8 RiverArts at Memorial Park
- 14 Doggy Dip at South & Northeast Park Wading Pools

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Labor Day | City offices closed | no garbage*
- 7-16 Greater Moorhead Days
- 14 Citizens Police Academy (runs to November 16)

*Garbage collection will begin at 4 am on the next business day following the holiday.



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Moorhead City Council



Mayor
Shelly Carlson
218.299.5307



Ward 1
Ryan Nelson
218.299.5549



Ward 3
Larry Seljevold
218.329.9214



Ward 1
Matthew Gilbertson
218.299.5541



Ward 3
Deb White
218.299.5548



Ward 2
Laura Caroon
218.299.5543



Ward 4
Steve Lindaas
218.299.5542



Ward 2
Heather Nesemeier
218.299.5547



Ward 4
Chuck Hendrickson
218.299.5545

City Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 5:30 pm at the Hjemkomst Center. Visit our website for agendas and materials.

City Services

Administration (general information)	218.299.5166
Engineering	218.299.5390
Community Development	218.299.5434
Moorhead Public Library	218.233.7594
Police (non-emergency)	218.299.5120
Fire (non-emergency)	218.299.5298
Parks and Recreation	218.299.5340
Public Works	218.299.5422
Moorhead Public Service (MPS)	218.477.8000

Emergency 911



218.299.5166



500 Center Ave, Moorhead, MN 56560



cityofmoorhead.com