

February 2020 City News

City of Fosston | 220 1st St E | Fosston, MN 56542 | 218-435-1959 | 218-435-1961 fax | www.fosston.com

Coming Events

- City Council Meeting—Monday, February 10, 7pm
- Highway 2 Corridor Study Open House—February 18, 7pm
- Monday, February 17—President's Day—City Departments closed. Monday's garbage will be picked up Tuesday.
- Tuesday, March 3, 2020—Presidential Nomination Primary

Water Saving Tip of the Month

Be sure your toilet is not stuck

running, a running toilet can really make your meter



spin and add up fast!

Electric Sur-Charge Rate Increase

The Electric sur-charge rate is increasing from .0045 cents /kWh to .007 cents/kWh effective with the bill you are receiving for January usage, as approved by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on December 10, 2019.

The average residential customer uses approximately 677 kWh per month. The average increase as a result of the sur-charge increase is \$1.69 per month.

The average commercial customer uses approximately 2,413 kWh per month. The average increase as a result of the sur-charge increase is \$6.03 per month.

In announcing the new rates, Director of Public Works Dave Larson said, "We've done our best to keep rates as low as possible, but cost of providing the service continues to rise. The city has worked hard to cut operating costs and to become more efficient with our load management system. However, this rate increase is necessary to maintain our current level of service and to fund future capital improvements to the electric system." The last retail electric rate increase for Light & Power customers was April 1, 2017.

Natural Gas Base Charge Increase

The base charge for natural gas services is increasing for the first time since natural gas was brought into the community in 1998. Residential users have been paying \$6 per month and will now pay \$8 per month. Commercial users have been paying \$12 per month and will now pay \$14 per month. This increase is necessary to maintain our current level of service and be able to keep our now over twenty year infrastructure up to date.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

March 3, 2020 – Presidential Nomination Primary.

Fosston Voters—Embassy Center 603 3rd St NE ~ 7am-8pm

For this election voters will need to declare their party in order to receive their ballot.

The March 3, 2020, Minnesota Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) online absentee application is available at MNVotes.org!

The Democratic-Farmer Labor and Republican parties will be participating in this election. Major parties had the choice to participate and these two parties are the only ones that have elected to do so.

Please keep in mind that if you vote in this election, you must declare your party affiliation in order to receive the correct ballot as this is a multi-ballot election. If you choose not to vote in this Presidential Nomination Primary, you may still vote in the Primary Election in August, where you will receive one ballot and will not have to declare your party.

If you have questions about the upcoming election, feel free to call City Hall or visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>

Safety Alerts & Notices to Customers

Protect your gas meters and prevent damage

The Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety staff and Fosston Utilities urges building managers and residents of single or multi family buildings to be aware that accumulations of water, ice and snow can cause serious damage to gas facilities.

Weather phenomena such as snowfalls and ice formations warrant extra attention to safety issues. Residents should take proactive measures to safeguard outside service regulators, meters and other facilities from accumulation of water, ice and snow.

Exercise caution when removing snow because snow removal equipment or falling ice can easily strike or damage gas facilities. Snow removed from driveways, walks, streets and parking lots should not be placed near a meter set, service regulator or other pipeline facility.

Residents should also keep the intake and exhaust pipes from their gas furnace clear of snow and ice. Snow or ice buildup on intake and exhaust pipes can cause the furnace to stop working.

Possibility of Water Lines Freezing

Due to the extreme frost depth, many water lines have been freezing. The City recommends customers take the temperature of the cold water coming out of your tap periodically. If the water temperature is below 34° or 35° let your water run at a stream the size of a pencil 24/7. Continue this until mid-April or until the water temperature comes back up over 34°. When low water temperatures are verified by a city employee, residents will not be charged for the additional water or sewer used to keep their lines from freezing. Call Fosston Utilities at 435-1737 to report when you are running your water.