



# City of Mora

APRIL | MAY | JUNE  
2024



## 2023 Community Survey Receives Record-Number of Responses

Thank you to those who took the time to complete and return the city’s 2023 Community Survey. The city received 292 responses – a 60% increase from last year’s responses and the highest participation rate since the survey began in 2011.

One comment made in the survey has become a favorite among the staff. It was simply: “Thanks for taking the time to listen.” We at city hall want to thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts!

The survey asked for your input about various services provided by the City of Mora and Mora Municipal Utilities. Your feedback is important to the city and it helps guide the City Council and Public Utilities Commission in providing services and future planning.

The results have been tabulated and will be presented to the City Council at their next meeting: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at Mora City Hall. A complete copy of the results will be available on the city’s website under the “Live/Visit” section.

To all those who participated, thank you again, and remember that you don’t need to wait for the annual survey to share your comments, questions or concerns. You can always contact us in person at City Hall/Utilities office, 101 Lake Street South, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday OR via phone 320.679.1511 OR email [info@cityofmora.com](mailto:info@cityofmora.com).

## Considering a Career in Childcare? We Can Help!

There’s a lot to consider when starting your own business. The City of Mora’s Community Development Department is ready to help entrepreneurs connect with free resources that can help. One of the city’s special focus areas is helping people start their career in childcare.

If you are thinking about becoming a childcare provider, you might have questions like:

- What licenses do I need?
- Does my home need any safety upgrades?
- How much should I charge?
- Will my business be profitable?



City staff can help child care providers and businesses access resources for childcare training, operations, business planning, growth, marketing, and finances. Contact Kirsten Faurie at [k.faurie@cityofmora.com](mailto:k.faurie@cityofmora.com) or 320-225-4807 for more information.

### **FREE TRAINING: “Let’s Talk About Challenging Behaviors”**

Family child care providers in the Kanabec County area can access a free training series aimed to help providers address challenging behaviors among children.

The Pyramid Model is a framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children’s healthy social and emotional development. It is proven to help reduce challenging behavior and improve behavior outcomes for children.

The five-session series takes place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays April 3, April 10, April 17, April 24 and May 1. Sessions are live online via Zoom. **Register by emailing [ccapd@pine.edu](mailto:ccapd@pine.edu).**

This free training is sponsored by The Initiative Foundation, Child Care Aware and Pine Technical & Community College.

- 2 MAC/ Park & Rec
- 3 Outage System & Public Works Info
- 4 MMU Budget Billing
- 5 Oakwood Cemetery and Columbarium
- 6 2023 Budget Summary & Building Dept. Info



**Stay Connected**  
**@cityofmora**

Please follow the City of Mora on Facebook, to stay up to date with news and other important happenings around the city.

## Parks & Recreation

Jeff Krie - 320-225-4827  
j.krie@cityofmora.com

## Dog Park Rules

### Mora Aquatic Center

Preparation for the 2024 swimming season is underway for the Mora Aquatic Center (MAC).

Open swimming begins Monday, June 3rd. Daily pass fees will be \$7.00 limited (pools only) and \$9.00 unlimited (pools and waterslides).

Bonus tickets are available to purchase at City Hall and on the city's website. Tickets will also be on sale at the MAC beginning June 3rd. The price is \$90.00 for a sheet of twenty (20) tickets: one (1) ticket good for either a limited or unlimited daily pass. Online swim lesson registration begins April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 12:00AM.

Preschool, Children, & Private Learn to Swim programs are available. See the city's website for details and to register. All swim lesson registrations **CAN ONLY** be completed online. Lesson fees are \$90.00 and includes ten (10) 2024 complimentary swim tickets.

There will also be three Slushie Family Friday Nights at the MAC. Open swim from 7:00pm – 8:45pm, one (1) slushie, and a bag of chips, for \$4.00 per person. See our website for dates.

Please contact Jeff at City Hall, (320-225-4827) if you are interested in working at the MAC in 2024.

**See you at the MAC!**



- Dog Park Hours are 6:00am to 10:00pm daily.
- Handlers **MUST CLEAN UP** after their dogs and properly dispose of their pet's waste.
- **NO AGGRESSIVE DOGS ALLOWED.** Aggressive dogs must be leashed and removed from the park immediately by their handler.
- Dogs must be leashed before entering and when leaving the park.
- Owners are legally and financially responsible for the actions of their dogs.
- No female dogs in heat or puppies under four months old are allowed.
- Dogs must always be in sight and under verbal control. No digging holes or damaging the park.
- Children under 14 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult and should be educated about safe behavior around dogs (no running, screaming, food, etc...).
- Maximum of three (3) dogs per handler.
- Owners, handlers and visitors must comply with all park rules, regulations and city ordinances.
- Smoking at the dog park is strictly prohibited.
- No spiked collars allowed at the dog park.
- All dogs must have current vaccinations and be free of all transmittable diseases.
- Personal belongings are allowed but may not be left at the park.

**THE CITY IS NOT HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE TO PERSONAL BELONGINGS!**



### Let's Play Ball

The JC Ballfields are a city-maintained facility providing our community with the use of three (3) softball fields with numerous community groups that use the fields. These fields are available for rent through City Hall.

Please fill out a Facility Use Permit application with the following information:

- Group name
- Contact phone number
- The dates and times that your group would like to use the fields.

Once all the applications are collected, the usage will be split up for fair time. Applications can be found at [ci.mora.mn.us](http://ci.mora.mn.us). You may email the completed application to [j.krie@cityofmora.com](mailto:j.krie@cityofmora.com) or call 320-225-4827.



## MMU Outage Management

Mora Municipal Utilities has launched a new power outage reporting system! If you experience a power outage, please call 320-679-1451 or visit [ci.mora.mn.us](http://ci.mora.mn.us). To report the outage via phone, you will need to enter either your phone number or account number (first 12 digits only, example pictured below). For faster reporting, please ensure your phone number is up-to-date with the utility office by calling 320-679-1451 or emailing [j.bliss@cityofmora.com](mailto:j.bliss@cityofmora.com). Mora Municipal Utilities also has a public outage map available for viewing and reporting purposes. This allows you to enter an outage online or view if your area is affected in real time. To view the public outage map visit [ci.mora.mn.us](http://ci.mora.mn.us) and click the button as shown below. Since this is a new program, we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work through any bugs. Please call the utility office with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

### Account Number

01-00011000-00-3

WHEN REPORTING AN OUTAGE, PLEASE ENTER FIRST 12 NUMBERS ONLY.



### Outage Report

VISIT [CI.MORA.MN.US](http://CI.MORA.MN.US) AND CLICK THIS BUTTON TO VIEW THE PUBLIC OUTAGE MAP AND REPORT AN OUTAGE ONLINE.

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## Public Work Reminders:

**LAWN DAMAGE BY THE CURB:** During snow plowing operations, a plow may have disturbed some of the grassy areas along the curb line. Crews will be out to repair the damage when the weather permits. The city is not responsible if sprinkler systems and decorative landscaping placed in the public right of way are damaged during plowing operations.

**STREET SWEEPING:** The city conducts a spring street sweeping program that involves the removal of the residual sand resulting from snow and ice control activities. The street department will begin sweeping and all streets will be swept full width. The city encourages residents to deposit any sand that has accumulated on the boulevard onto the street near the curb. This allows the street sweeper to remove the material and makes spring cleanup easier for the residents. Do not place leaves and/or branches in the street. Garbage cans and recycling bins should be placed approximately two feet (2') behind the curb in the driveway so they do not interfere with sweeping operations.

**POTHOLE PATCHING:** This past winter season was particularly hard on city streets due to moisture and temperature changes. Crews will do their best to keep the holes patched. If you see any major potholes on a city street, please call city hall and report the location. We appreciate being notified so the pothole(s) can be repaired quickly.

**CRACK SEALING:** This is a preventive maintenance activity conducted mostly in the spring and fall when temperatures are between 40° and 65°. Crack sealing prevents water and incompressible material from entering the pavement structure and extends the life of the street. Crews will cone off the area in which they are working to prevent vehicles from tracking the material until it dries.

**EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB):** Monitor the health of your ash trees – learn early symptoms and signs of EAB. Information can be found at these web sites: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) & [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us). Contact the city or the local DNR Forester at 320.679.3683 if you think you see signs of EAB on your trees. Please do not transport firewood from another area; it can easily be spread in firewood.

### Hydrant Flushing

Mora Municipal Utilities will be flushing hydrants beginning Monday, April 15 and will continue until finished.

Residents may notice some discoloration in their water during this time and are cautioned to avoid washing clothes until the water clears. **For more information, please contact MMU at 320-679-1451.**



For residents planning to do any digging in their yards, call Gopher State One @ 811 or 800.252.1166.

**CALL before you dig.  
It's free and it's the law!**



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

A reminder that by city ordinance #53.061, sump pumps may not be discharged into the sanitary sewer. They should discharge outside, away from the house.



## Budget Billing Policy

Budget Billing is available to homeowners of a home both permanently secured to the ground, and owning the land where located, who want to pay an equal amount for their utilities over a twelve (12) month period. Customers who meet the qualifications for Budget Billing, and interested in signing up, must return the completed application to MMU by May 15th.

**The following criteria must be met to be eligible for Budget Billing. The applicant must:**

- 1. Own and reside at the property address.**
- 2. Have at least one (1) year of billing history at the property address.**
- 3. Have their utility account paid in full.**
- 4. Have no late payments during the prior six (6) months.**

The Budget billing period runs from June 1st to May 31st of each year. Budgeted amounts will be re-evaluated annually based on the prior twelve (12) months actual usage for electric, water and sewer. The May bill at the end of each budget year will be due in full for any account balance over the budget amount. If the account has a credit balance at the end of the budget year in May, the same budget amount will be due. The June bill each year will be a re-calculated budget amount, taking into account any increase, or decrease, in usage.

Actual usage and charges will be reflected on the budget bills, but you pay the Budget Total Due amount. The budget amount due on the account must be received by the due date each month once enrolled in the Budget Billing program. A missed or late payment will result in cancellation from the program and any variance between the monthly budget amount and actual balance on the account is then due in full.

Mora Municipal Utilities reserves the right to adjust the monthly budget amount at any time for such reason as an increase in rates, or a significant increase, or decrease, in usage during the budget year. The customer can cancel Budget Billing at any time by written request. If cancelled by the customer, any variance between the monthly budget amount and actual balance on the account will be due in full.

## Budget Billing Agreement

MMU Customer Name:	MMU Service Address:
MMU Account Number:	Phone Number:

I authorize Mora Municipal Utilities to calculate an average monthly billing amount each year in June, to be paid monthly by the due date printed on the bill. Each year I agree to pay the full balance due for my May bill by the due date, which may be more than the budgeted amount. I understand that a missed payment will terminate this contract, and I will be removed from the Budget Billing program. All bills thereafter will be due in full as billed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Oakwood Cemetery

Kelly Erickson  
kerickson@cityofmora.com

**FRESH CUT FLOWERS** - Placement of fresh cut flowers is permitted at places of interment throughout the growing season. We encourage the free use of our flower containers, which are available at the entrance to the cemetery. **NO** glass jars, coffee cans, etc., will be allowed.

**ANNUAL FLOWERS** - The planting of annual flowers will be allowed PROVIDED:

- In-ground plantings should be surrounded by a 6" dirt area. Cemetery staff will not be responsible for plants damaged by mowers or trimmers.
- All plantings must be made next to an upright monument, or if no monument exists, the plantings must be made next to a flat marker within the lot.
- If plantings are to be made in an above ground planter, the planter must be of a single legged type with a mowing border of no less the 6" at ground level.

**ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS** - Artificial flowers are **only** allowed from May 15 to June 15 **UNLESS** they are in an approved planter or placed in the ground in a manner similar to live plantings.

**OTHER DECORATIONS** - Wreaths, Crosses, Statues, etc. are NOT allowed except from May 15 to June 15 and 30 days following new interments. After these dates all such items will be removed.

The following are exceptions:

- Wreaths are allowed during the Christmas season.
- Government issued Veteran's markers are allowed all year.

### MICELLANEOUS REGULATIONS:

- Any planters which have not been used on a regular basis will be removed.
- All flowers, live or artificial, must be kept neat in appearance. If, in the opinion of Cemetery Management, such flowers become objectionable or unsightly, they will be removed.
- **NO** decorative rock or decorative fencing of any kind.
- **NO** setting of monuments or markers allowed without permission from the Cemetery.
- The planting of trees, shrubbery, perennial plants, etc. upon lots will not be permitted unless approved by the management and of so placed, the management will not be responsible for them and reserve the right to remove them at any time.

## Columbarium

**NICHE USE** - Columbarium niches are used solely for human cremated remains. Pet cremated remains are prohibited. Valuables, mementos, etc., will be allowed but must be placed within the urn prior to inurnment.

**INURNMENT** - Inurnment will be conducted by an approved cemetery official ONLY.

**NICHE AND URN SIZES** - Each niche is 11" Wx11" Lx11" H. Each niche may contain up to two (2) urns.

1. Niches with one urn: the urn shall be no longer than 10" W x 10" L x 10" H.
2. Niches with two urns: each urn shall be no larger than 10" W x 10" L x 5" H.

**NICHE COST** - Please see the current fee schedule for the cost of a niche.

**NICHE OPENING AND CLOSING** - Please see the current fee schedule for the cost of a niche opening and closing. There are additional fees for opening and closing after 3 pm on a weekday as well as on a weekend or holiday.

**ENGRAVING REQUIREMENTS** - Each niche is required to be engraved with Name, Date of Birth, and Date of Death. Engraving must be completed by a professional engraver and done according to Oakwood Cemetery specifications. No drilling, tapping, gluing or any other means of fastening may be done to the niche or the columbarium.

**PLACEMENT OF FLOWERS, PLANTS, OR OTHER DECORATIONS** - All flowers, plants, wreaths, mementos, or other ornamentation on the Columbarium and surrounding area are prohibited except for Memorial Day or during inurnment services and up to one week following the event unless preapproved by the cemetery.

**LANDSCAPING** - All landscaping including the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers around the Columbarium will be done by cemetery officials only.



## 2024 Mora Budget

	2023 Original Budget	2023 Amended Budget	2024 Original Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
PROPERTY TAXES	1,504,099	1,504,099	1,770,830
TAX INCREMENTS	18,000	18,000	18,000
OTHER TAXES	307,500	307,500	307,500
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	28,436	38,746	400,060
LICENSES AND PERMITS	53,200	53,200	53,200
FEDERAL GRANTS	656,250	-	-
STATE GENERAL PURPOSE AID	1,045,745	1,045,745	1,229,575
STATE CATEGORICAL AID	238,500	894,750	896,507
GRANTS FROM CTY & OTHER LOCAL GOV'TS	205,116	205,116	216,930
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	249,100	249,100	241,120
FINES & FORFEITS	11,000	11,000	10,000
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	46,255	68,690	56,890
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	199,270	199,270	169,596
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>4,562,471</b>	<b>4,595,216</b>	<b>5,010,208</b>
PROCEEDS FROM BOND SALES	220,500	-	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	-	-	-
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	1,052,453	1,137,853	947,843
<b>Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources</b>	<b>5,835,424</b>	<b>5,733,069</b>	<b>5,958,051</b>
	2023	2023	2024
	Original	Amended	Original
	Budget	Budget	Budget
<b>Expenditures</b>			
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	633,208	633,208	726,424
PUBLIC SAFETY	1,090,081	1,188,606	1,149,779
STREETS & HIGHWAYS	527,964	527,964	589,896
SANITATION	-	-	-
HUMAN SERVICES	-	-	-
HEALTH	-	-	-
CULTURE & RECREATION	515,880	515,880	615,332
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	-	-	-
URBAN DEVEL., ECON. DEVEL., & HOUSING	68,522	68,522	80,675
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES	405,310	405,310	354,783
<b>Total Current Expenditures</b>	<b>3,240,965</b>	<b>3,339,490</b>	<b>3,616,889</b>
DEBT SERVICE - PRINCIPAL ONLY	321,555	321,555	384,535
INTEREST & FISCAL CHARGES	140,165	194,565	181,805
STREETS & HIGHWAYS CONSTRUCTION	-	-	-
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,654,300	1,709,175	1,350,285
OTHER FINANCING USES	-	-	-
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	486,272	771,672	369,084
<b>Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>5,843,257</b>	<b>6,336,457</b>	<b>5,902,598</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balances</b>	<b>(7,833)</b>	<b>(603,388)</b>	<b>55,453</b>

Note: the complete budget is available for public inspection on the City Hall bulletin board or at [www.ci.mora.mn.us](http://www.ci.mora.mn.us)

## Building Department Reminders!

### Help our city look its best!

City Code requires all lawns be trimmed and maintained. Tall grass and weeds should be no taller than 8 inches in height. Please don't forget to mow along both sides of your fence and along the boulevards. Even if you believe the city or county mows these areas or has in the past, ultimately, this is your property and your responsibility to mow. If your grass or weeds are taller than the 8 inches, you will receive a citation. A fine will be charged if you don't mow your lawn within seven days of the citation. City Code does not require Dandelions and Creeping Charlie to be treated with a weed spray. If you would like to report a property that has not been mowed, please call Caleb @ 320-225-4808, beginning May 1 or e-mail the complaint to: [c.christenson@cityofmora.com](mailto:c.christenson@cityofmora.com)

## Building Permits

To provide some clarity regarding building permits, below is a list of examples where residential or commercial permits are needed. Permits are required for most residential and commercial projects, including, but not limited to: • Basement Finish • Decks • Door Replacement • Electrical • Garages/Sheds (over 200 square feet)/ Outbuildings • HVAC/ Heating • New Construction • Plumbing/Fixture Replacement • Porches/ Additions • Remodeling • Re-roof • Re-siding • Window Replacement • Pools/Hot Tubs (depth of more than 2 feet at any point and volume over 5,000 gallons). Any questions can be directed to Caleb Christenson, Building Official, at 320-225-4808 or you may view the permit process by visiting the city's website @

[www.ci.mora.mn.us](http://www.ci.mora.mn.us) and find the building department section under **PERMITS & FORMS > BUILDING INSPECTION > VIEW ALL > BUILDING PERMIT PROCESS.**

## City/MMU Offices will be closed :

MEMORIAL DAY  
Monday, May 27

JUNETEENTH  
Wednesday, June 19

INDEPENDENCE DAY  
Thursday, July 4



### City of Mora

City Phone: 320.679.1511

Fax: 320.679.3862

101 Lake Street S, Mora, MN 55051

ci.mora.mn.us

#### CITY STAFF DIRECTORY

##### Administration/Finance

Glenn Anderson, City Administrator	320.225.4806
Natasha Segelstrom, Admin. Service Director	320.364.1173
Kelly Christianson, Accountant	320.225.4826

##### Human Resources

Mandi Yoder, HR Director/Admin. Assistant 320.225.4804

##### Community Development

Kirsten Faurie, Comm. Dev. Director 320.225.4807

##### Building Department

Caleb Christenson, Building Official 320.225.4808

##### Streets/Parks/Airport/Cemetery

Joe Kohlgraf, Public Works Director 320.679.1511

##### Mora Aquatic Center/Property Rentals

Jeff Krie, Activities & Recreation Coordinator 320.225.4827

##### Accounts Payable/Cemetery

Kelly Erickson, Accounting Clerk 320.225.4805

##### Municipal Liquor Store

Julie Krone, Manager 320.679.3722

##### Sheriff's Office

Brian Smith, Sheriff 320.679.8400

##### Fire Department

Brett Anderson, Fire Chief 320.282.9200

### Mora Municipal Utilities

Utility Phone: (320)679-1451

Fax: (320)679-3862

101 Lake Street S, Mora, MN 55051

ci.mora.mn.us



#### MMU STAFF DIRECTORY

##### Electric/Water/Sewer

Glenn Anderson, General Manager	320.225.4806
Joe Kohlgraf, Public Works Director	320.679.1451
Derrick Lass, Electric Manager	320.679.1451
Jessica Bliss, Utility Billing Clerk	320.225.4802
Jessica Gravening, Utility Billing Clerk	320.225.4801

## Monthly Meetings

- **City Council** meets the 3rd Tuesday—work session at 5:00 pm if necessary and monthly meeting at 6:30 pm.
- **Public Utilities Commission** meets the Monday before the 3rd Tuesday at 3:00 pm.
- **Airport Advisory Board** meets the 2nd Tuesday at 5:00 pm.
- **Economic Development Authority** meets at 2:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every odd month.
- **Housing & Redevelopment Authority** meets the 3rd Wednesday at 3:30 pm at Eastwood Senior Living.
- **Park Board** meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 pm.
- **Planning Commission** meets the Monday before the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 pm.

*Meetings are held in the council chambers at City Hall unless otherwise noted.*

## Become an Election Judge

Election judges are temporary, paid employees of local election officials trained to handle all aspects of voting at the polling place. Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections and is a great service to the community.

Judges must receive Election Judge Training which occurs in July, 2024, followed by the Primary Election,

August 13, 2024, and Election Day, November 5, 2024.

If you are interested, please contact Natasha Segelstrom at [n.segelstrom@cityofmora.com](mailto:n.segelstrom@cityofmora.com) or 320-364-1173.



## NOW HIRING!

Are you looking for summertime employment? If you are a responsible person who enjoys working with a team, following safety procedures, and maintaining a clean work environment, please consider applying today!

Summer positions available are with the Mora Aquatic Center and the Public Works

Department. For more information view our website at: [www.ci.mora.mn.us](http://www.ci.mora.mn.us), or pick up an application packet from the kiosk at City Hall. If you have questions, please contact Mandi Yoder at [m.yoder@cityofmora.com](mailto:m.yoder@cityofmora.com).

