

# Delano Digest

MAY 2024 | Monthly Newsletter | City of Delano, MN



The Delano Digest is a monthly newsletter that shares important announcements, upcoming meetings, and summaries of the previous month's commission and council meetings.

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## City Calendar: May

### City Council & City Hall

**5/7:** City Council Meeting  
- 7 PM

**5/21:** City Council Meeting  
- 7 PM

**5/27: CITY OFFICES CLOSED**  
- Memorial Day

**5/28:** City Council Meeting  
- 7 PM

### Commissions

**5/6:** Public Safety  
- 7 PM

**5/13:** Planning Commission  
- 7 PM

**5/14:** Spirit of Community  
- 7 PM

**5/20:** Water, Light, Power  
- 7 PM

**5/22:** Parks and Recreation  
- 5 PM

## New Webpage for Community Organizations - Get Involved Today!

In an effort to offer a space on the City website for residents to easily find information about local events and opportunities to get involved with local groups and organizations, the City has created a "Get Involved - Local Opportunities" page. **City of Delano groups and organizations are encouraged to submit information to be shared on this page**, including public and free events, upcoming volunteer opportunities, or information about how to join a local group. If you are interested in sharing information on this page, please fill out the form found on the City website: [www.delanomn.gov/588](http://www.delanomn.gov/588)



## DMU Adopts Summer Lawn Watering Schedule

Delano Water, Light, and Power Commission, also known as Delano Municipal Utilities (DMU), has adopted new guidelines and requirements regarding lawn watering in Delano. DMU is responsible for administering water and electric utilities in Delano. The Minnesota DNR has provided recommendations to DMU regarding policy requirements aimed to reduce municipal water use. DMU is responding to the requirements of the DNR in a manner consistent with this objective, while still providing watering opportunities to Delano residents.

**Beginning June 1, 2024, watering is allowed as follows:**

Properties with address numbers ending in **odd** numbers may water only on **odd** numbered calendar days. **Even** address numbered properties may water only on **even** numbered calendar days. For example – 845 20th Street would water on odd calendar days.

Watering is, on all days for all properties, **prohibited** between 7 AM – 7 PM. Watering is allowed before 7 AM and after 7 PM on applicable even/odd days

### Exceptions:

- Watering is allowed on all days for newly established seeded/sodded areas for the first 30 days.
- Hand watering with a hose is allowed on lawns, gardens, and planter areas on all days and times.

Violations of the watering allowances are subject to fines. The permanent watering schedule will be in effect June 1 – October 1 of each year.

For more information, please visit [www.delanomn.us](http://www.delanomn.us) or contact DMU at 763-972-0557.



# Delano City Council & Commission Meetings Recap

This section offers a brief summary of what was discussed during the previous month's Council and Commission meetings and is not an official documentation of meeting minutes. Official minutes will be posted at [www.delanomn.gov/agendacenter](http://www.delanomn.gov/agendacenter) upon approval.

## Planning Commission Recap - met on April 8

The Planning Commission reviewed a concept plan from Ebert Construction for the development of 90 units of multi-family housing on two parcels of land between CR 16 and the Crow River. Ebert has requested participation from the City in order to ensure the rental units meet workforce/affordability standards. The Planning Commission endorsed Ebert's concept for further conversation and development. It was also shared that there is a land use application for a pickleball and office facility next to the Dairy Queen, which is being reviewed and discussed.

## Public Safety Commission Recap - met on April 1

The Public Safety Commission passed a recommendation to submit a Request For Approval (RFA) to City Council to implement LED stop signs and other additional safety options at the intersection of 2nd St. N and Elm Ave E. A motion was also passed to have the speed sign move to Liberty Landing for three months and moved between the three streets to collect and analyze the data to be shared with the neighborhood. The Public Safety Commission also has an open seat vacancy, which is to be filled immediately. Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 5 PM. Apply online at [www.delanomn.gov](http://www.delanomn.gov).

## Spirit of Community Commission Recap - met on April 9

The Spirit of Community Commission (SOCC) reviewed Delano's upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration schedule, which established a weekend in August of 2026 to be the main celebration/observation of the SQ, with additional events expected to take place throughout 2026. Event planning is still in the preliminary stages. The SOCC also discussed the upcoming Spirit of Community Breakfast, which is scheduled for May 21, 7:30-8:30 AM at City Hall. City Administrator Phil Kern will present on the "State of the City" and the SOCC discussed what topics they'd like him to touch on, including affordable housing, projected demographics, how the City plans to handle growth, and more. The Spirit of Community Breakfast is free and open to all. Residents can RSVP for the Spirit of Community Breakfast at [www.delanomn.gov](http://www.delanomn.gov). All are invited and welcome to attend!

## Park and Recreation Commission Recap - met on April 24

The Park and Recreation Commission followed up a March presentation from members of the Big Woods Garden Club regarding Chimney Swifts - a bird species that once was native to this area but is no longer present in large numbers. The group presented the Commission with plans to construct a Chimney Swift Tower on a location next to Riverside Commons with the hope of attracting the birds back to the Delano area. The Commission supported a recommendation to the City Council to allow the group to construct the Tower at the group's expense for both construction and maintenance. The Commission also conducted a final review of the Community Park Master Plan and recommended its adoption to the City Council. The Master Plan contains a guide for the future use and development of park property. Implementation schedule for the park is TBD.

## City Council Recap - met on April 2, 16, and 23

**April 2:** City Council approved the final development agreement for the Greywood 4th Addition, which will add 35 new residential lots. City Council also approved an amendment to make the "Motzko Family Tree" sculpture a permanent fixture in Delano's Sculpture Garden. The sculpture was donated by the Motzko family and is expected to be included as a feature on the Delano Spirit of Community Trail. At the recommendation of the Public Safety Commission, the Council considered purchasing and installing timed flashing LED stop signs at the intersection of 2nd St. N and Elm Ave E, due to multiple near-accidents at this intersection. This was approved and will be funded by the General Capital Improvement Fund.

**April 16:** At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, City Council was shown a concept plan for a 90-unit affordable housing development from Ebert Construction, which Council endorsed for further conversation about location and resource management. City Council also discussed correspondence with Wright County about doing a land swap in exchange for a permanent highway easement along the south side of County Road 30. The City Council entered a closed/executive session to discuss four different purchase agreements in the West Metro Business Park.

**April 23:** City Council reviewed a request to send a letter to OSHA, asking for an extended timeline for the City of Delano to come into compliance with new upcoming requirements. City Council gave consensus to move forward with the letter. City Council also discussed potential city planning services upon the completion of contract with AB Cities at the end of 2024. City staff is looking into different options. City Council also discussed the potential creation of a new recreation programming position, an entry level position. Discussions were also held about updating the Code of Ethics for Elected Public Officials.