

Prior Lake American

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Revenue generated from franchise fees will be placed in a dedicated fund and used solely for expenditures related to the maintenance of city streets.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL STRASBURG

TAKING ACTION

Prior Lake City Council approves franchise fees increase; Collection begins in January

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After months of discussion, the Prior Lake City Council voted 4-1 to approve increasing city gas and electric franchise fees beginning in January 2022. Councilman Kevin Burkart opposed the motion, which was voted on at the Sept. 7 city council meeting.

The resolution will increase residential city franchise fees from \$1.50 to \$5 — a \$3.50 increase for both gas and

electric bills which comes to \$7 a month — or \$84 a year.

Commercial and industrial businesses will pay a higher rate based on their usage and meter sizes.

The revenue generated from these fees will be placed in a dedicated fund and used solely for expenditures related to the maintenance of city streets.

As of 2021, within the Excel Energy and CenterPoint Energy service area, 81 cities have collected electric franchise fees, and 70 cities collected gas franchise fees.

LOOKING AT THE STREETS

The city recently completed a Pavement Management Plan that City Manager Jason Wedel said identified a funding shortfall in the city's long term street maintenance and replacement. The increase in franchise fees is one solution to provide the needed resources to put the city on a financially sustainable path for the long term maintenance of the city street network.

The city's previous financial plans did not include adequate funding to maintain

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