



# THE БЕЛОIT REPORT

CONTINUING ITS RESURGENCE AS A GEM OF THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY

## CURRENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**May 25, 2012**

*A weekly publication  
from the Office of the  
City Manager*

**Larry N. Arft**  
City Manager  
City of Beloit  
100 State Street  
Beloit, WI 53511

608-364-6614  
608-364-6756 (Fax)

arftl@ci.beloit.wi.us  
www.ci.beloit.wi.us

### Special points of interest:

- City Meetings and  
Community Events  
(page 3)

### MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Just a reminder that this coming Monday, May 28, the annual Memorial Day Parade will kick off from South Beloit and move into the City of Beloit along Blackhawk Boulevard, terminating at Horace White Park with a Memorial Day ceremony. The parade is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m.

### FAIRBANKS FLATS HISTORIC MARKER TO BE UNVEILED

City staff has been working in conjunction with the Fairbanks Flats/Shore Drive Neighborhood Revitalization Group to prepare a historic marker to be placed on the Fairbanks Flats site. The Flats were completely remodeled and reopened several years ago as tax credit financed rental housing. The owner of the property was kind enough to allow for the placement of the historic marker. The Fairbanks Flats Committee will officially unveil and dedicate the marker at a brief ceremony scheduled for this coming **Thursday, May 31, 2012** at 4:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Fairbanks Flats site on Shore Drive. Please see [attached](#) for more information.

### PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS

Despite an unusually warm May Saturday afternoon, the Public Works Open House was a huge success. Over 260 people toured the exhibits, enjoyed the refreshments and participated in the program held at the Utilities and Engineering building. We were very pleased by the level of interest among residents to learn about Public Works operations. We had a particularly large turnout from families with young children. A follow-up meeting to discuss the event was held this past Thursday, and it is likely that planning will begin for some type of open house event to be held in May of 2013.

### NO WATER RATE INCREASE FOR 2012

Staff requested, and this past Monday Council granted authorization to submit what is called a "simplified" rate increase request to the Public Service Commission. This rate increase would have affected water rates, although with a relatively small percentage adjustment. Last year, when the City's water rates were adjusted following a full rate study and Public Service Commission analysis, PSC staff suggested that the City consider utilizing the simplified process to provide for smaller, more incremental rate adjustments as opposed to waiting and then needing to go through the more expensive full rate adjustment analysis.

Following Council's approval, the Finance Director went on line to begin the application process. We soon discovered that the utilities performance in 2011 was above the threshold allowed by PSC rules for submitting for an adjustment under the simplified rate process. Obviously, we terminated the application process at that point in time. It was good news that the utilities performance last year was a little better than we had anticipated. Consequently, there will be no rate adjustments to the utility for the balance of this year. Staff will complete the proposed 2013 budget and, as we do every year, will be evaluating all of the revenues, fees, charges and taxes that support municipal operations. Any need for adjustments will be discussed during the upcoming budget preparation process.

## BUDGET PREPARATION

Again this week, work continued on budget preparation activities. The CIP Committee met and did an initial review of all proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the 2013 budget cycle. Meetings were then scheduled with all of the Department and Division Heads submitting projects for review to discuss their capital spending needs for the coming year. That process normally leads to a reduction to the most critical capital needs in order to prepare the proposed budget within available revenue capacity.

Staff is also preparing for the next Council workshop, which is scheduled for Monday, June 18 from 5:30—6:30 p.m. prior to the regular City Council meeting. Work on the actual Operating Budgets will not begin until early in July.

## REVIEW OF URBAN CHICKEN ORDINANCE

At the request of a group of residents, the City Attorney's office, working in conjunction with City staff, has prepared a draft ordinance which would allow for the keeping of chickens in the City's residential neighborhoods. At the current time, domesticated animals are permitted only in the City's development holding zoning district, and there is a formula included under that section of the Zoning Code that determines how many domestic animals can be on the site based upon the total acreage of the property. This draft ordinance provides a regulatory outline for allowing individual residents living in other residential neighborhoods to own and maintain up to four chickens on their property. **The City has scheduled a workshop for next Wednesday evening, May 30, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Forum**, to present the proposed parameters of the draft ordinance and to discuss various elements of the plan to allow chickens in the City's urbanized residential neighborhoods. The residents who initially requested this ordinance have been provided a draft copy for their review and preparation for discussion at this workshop. Other residents with an interest in this issue are encouraged to attend. A copy of the ordinance has been [attached](#) to the Beloit Report for your convenience. There is also a copy available at the City's website under the Council Agenda section.

## PREPARATION FOR 2012 BOND SALES

City staff, along with our consultants from Ehlers, conducted calls with two bond rating agencies this past Wednesday. In the morning we spoke to Standard and Poors, which is reviewing the City's rating for the General Obligation Bond issue, which will be used for the General Purpose infrastructure improvements included in this year's Capital Spending Plan. In the afternoon, the call was repeated with analysts from Moody's, who are doing the rating on the CDA lease revenue bonds, which will be used for the final year of improvements in the downtown TIF District #5, including the public portion of the East Grand Avenue redevelopment project.

Ratings will likely be issued by next Thursday, with the sale scheduled for Monday, June 4, 2012. As always, sale results will be quickly summarized and presented to both the Community Development Authority Board and the City Council at meetings scheduled for the evening of June 4.

## HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Please see [attached](#) press release regarding the holiday trash and recycling collection.

City Hall and the Beloit Public Library will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012 in observance of Memorial Day.

## CITY MEETING CALENDAR MAY 28–JUNE 1, 2012

Monday, May 28	Cancelled	Traffic Review Committee
Monday, May 28	Cancelled	Police and Fire Commission
Tuesday, May 29	9:00 a.m.	Board of Review, Forum
Wednesday, May 30	6:30 p.m.	<a href="#">City Council Workshop</a> , Forum (All Councilors)

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

*This is just a sample of events coming up in Beloit. A more complete listing is available on the Visit Beloit website:*

[www.visitbeloit.com](http://www.visitbeloit.com)

**Beloit Public Library** offers many events for youth, teens and adults. Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information.

Saturdays throughout May offer an opportunity to attend the **Farmers Market Pre-Sale**, at the intersection of State and Grand, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Riverside Park Paddle Boats and Concessions** are OPEN Saturdays and Sundays in May, from Noon to 7:00 p.m.

- Mon., May 28 9:00 a.m. **Memorial Day Parade.** The parade will begin in South Beloit, IL, traveling north on Blackhawk Blvd. and State Street to East Grand Ave., turning East to Park Avenue and then North to turn onto Bushnell, where there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at Horace White Park.
- Wed., May 30 **Plein Air Painting event “Edge of the Rock”** begins. Event continues through June 8, culminating in an art show and sale.
- Thurs., May 31 4:00 p.m. **Fairbanks Flats Historic Marker Unveiling** at Fairbanks Flats, Shore Drive. Refreshments donated by Old Fashioned Bakery will be served.
- June 1 11:30 a.m. **Fridays in the Park**, First National Bank Plaza, downtown Beloit. Blues with Brother K, food by Domenico’s Italian Ristorante.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For additional information contact:  
Beth Jacobsen  
City of Beloit  
(608) 364-6726

Fairbanks Flats Historic Marker Unveiling

**Beloit, WI – May 24, 2012:** The Fairbanks Flats/Shore Drive Neighborhood Revitalization Group announces the unveiling of the first historic marker to memorialize the lives of workers who re-located to Beloit during “The Great Migration.” The unveiling ceremony will be held at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the Fairbanks Flats on Shore Drive.

The Fairbanks Flats, built for African American workers, is the only remaining example of segregated housing that remains in Wisconsin. “The Flats” were placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on January 7, 1983. This location was later placed on the State of Wisconsin’s Register of Historic Places on January 1, 1989. “We have worked so long to preserve these Flats. This is a big day for us,” said Francis Vance, President of the Shore Drive/Fairbanks Flats Revitalization Group.

In addition to the unveiling, the Fairbanks Flats/ Shore Drive Neighborhood Revitalization Group will announce their plans for a Memorial Marker that will be placed in Pride Park to tell the story of “The Flats.” The Fairbanks-Morse Engine Company has already donated the initial funds to erect the memorial and their President, George Whittier will be present to encourage others to support the Memorial Marker Fund, which will be announced at the unveiling.

All community members are encouraged and invited to attend. Refreshments donated by Old Fashioned Bakery will be served.

[Return to page 1](#)

# # #



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Beloit City Council will hold a **workshop** on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in The Forum, located on the first floor of Beloit City Hall, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss a proposed ordinance amendment to allow backyard chickens in residential areas of the City. A quorum of City Councilors will be present.

[Return to page 3](#)

Larry N. Arft, City Manager

Dated: May 23, 2012  
Rebecca S. Houseman  
City Clerk  
[www.ci.beloit.wi.us](http://www.ci.beloit.wi.us)

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 7.243(3) AND TO CREATE SECTION 7.244 OF THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, CHAPTER 7 OF THE CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF БЕЛОIT AND TO AMEND SECTION 6.2.8 AND TO CREATE SECTION 8-300(m)(5) OF THE ZONING CODE, CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF БЕЛОIT RELATING TO THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS**

The City Council of the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 7.243(3) of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Beloit is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(3) LIVESTOCK IN THE CITY. No person may keep any livestock in the City unless the livestock is kept in a "Development Holding" zoning district ~~or unless such livestock is allowed under the provisions of § 7.244. See §14.17(3) of this Municipal Code regulating the maximum number of cats and dogs that may be kept in the City.~~”

Section 2. Section 7.244 of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Beloit is hereby created to read as follows:

**“7.244 CHICKENS ALLOWED ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS.”**

(1) DEFINITIONS. The following terms, when used in this section, shall have the meaning set forth below:

- (a) *Chicken* means a domestic chicken of the sub-species Gallus gallus domesticus.
- (b) *Keep* means either the owning, keeping, possessing or harboring of a chicken.
- (c) *Rooster* means a male chicken of any age, including a capon or otherwise neutered male chicken.
- (d) *Coop* means an enclosed accessory structure designed for the keeping of chickens and meeting the requirements of this section and not to exceed 12 square feet in area.

- (e) *Chicken Run* means a fenced area attached to a coop and not to exceed 36 square feet in area.
- (2) CHICKENS ALLOWED.
- (a) Any person may keep up to 4 female chickens on any residential zoning lot in the City which contains one single-family residential dwelling unit. No person shall otherwise keep any chicken within the City of Beloit other than as permitted in a “Development Holding” zoning district as provided in Section 7.243(3) and Section 5-204 of the City of Beloit Zoning Code.
- (b) No roosters shall be allowed to be kept under this section.
- (c) No person may keep chickens other than in an enclosed structure or a properly permitted chicken coop and chicken run as defined in this section.
- (3) SLAUGHTERING OF CHICKENS. No person shall slaughter any chicken within the City of Beloit other than at a licensed meat processing facility.
- (4) CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF COOP.
- (a) A coop shall be an enclosed structure, not more than 12 square feet in area, which must be constructed from conventional building materials in a workmanlike fashion or be a pre-manufactured enclosed structure designed specifically for the keeping of urban chickens. Such coop must be secure and impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats and must be constructed in a fashion to provide a humane environment for the chickens, including adequate ventilation, adequate sun, adequate shade and adequate protection from adverse weather.
- (b) A coop may have a chicken run attached and contiguous to the coop with the run constructed in a fashion to confine the chickens and in compliance with the provisions of this section.
- (c) Coops and chicken runs must be kept clean, dry, and odor free and kept in a sanitary condition at all times in such a manner as to not disturb the use or enjoyment of adjoining property due to noise, odor or any other adverse impact. Chicken manure, droppings and eggs shall be removed from the coop and the chicken run on a daily basis.

- (5) **CONFINEMENT OF CHICKENS.** Chickens must be kept in an enclosed structure, a coop or a chicken run at all times. Between sunrise and sunset, chickens may be allowed outside of the enclosed structure or coop in the chicken run. Chickens must be secured within the enclosed structure or coop between sunset and sunrise.
- (6) **LOCATION OF COOP.** A coop must be located no closer than 10 feet to the rear wall of the residential dwelling unit located on the zoning lot and no portion of the coop or chicken run shall be located within 20 feet of any lot line of the zoning lot upon which the coop and chicken run are located.
- (7) **RESIDENTIAL CHICKEN PERMIT REQUIRED.** No person shall keep any chickens nor construct any coop or chicken run without first obtaining a residential chicken permit hereunder.
- (a) *Fee.* An application fee, established by City Council resolution, shall be paid to the City by the applicant when the application is filed. (Staff recommends a \$35.00 coop permit fee.)
- (b) *Application.* The application for the residential chicken permit shall be made using such forms required by the City's Director of Planning and Building Services and must contain an accurately scaled drawing showing the location of the proposed coop and any chicken run, distances to lot lines and distances to the nearest adjoining residential dwelling unit, together with dimensions of the coop and chicken run. Residential chicken permits shall be exempt from Section 8-300 of the City of Beloit Zoning Code related to fencing regulations.
- (c) *Registration.* Any permit application shall be accompanied with satisfactory evidence that the applicant has registered the proposed location with the Wisconsin Department of Agricultural Trade and Consumer Protection pursuant to Wis. Stats. 95.51 and ATCP 17, Wis. Adm. Code.
- (8) **MISCELLANEOUS.**
- (a) All food supplies maintained for the coop must be kept in a secure and rodent-proof container.
- (b) Should any person feed chickens kept under this section with food meant for human consumption or scraps of such food, it shall only be fed within the enclosed structure or coop and shall be prohibited within the chicken run.



- (c) All waste generated by the operation of the coop and chicken run, including, but not limited to, chicken carcasses, manure, droppings and spoiled feed, shall be disposed of pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 17 of this Municipal Code. (Note: Chapter 17 will need to be amended related to the on-site storage and preparation of carcasses for disposal.)
- (9) PENALTY.
- (a) The penalty for any violation of this section shall be as provided in Section 25.04 of this Municipal Code.
  - (b) Any person convicted of any violation hereunder on more than 2 occasions relating to incidents occurring within a 365-day time period shall be ineligible to receive a renewal permit for a period of one year after the date of the last such conviction. In addition, no other person may apply for a permit hereunder on the zoning lot subject to such prior permit during said period of renewal ineligibility.”

Section 3. Section 6.2.8 of the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19 of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Beloit, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“6.2.8 LIVESTOCK. Livestock, as defined in Section 7.243(1) of the Code of General Ordinances, may be kept in the DH, Development Holding District, ~~or under the provisions of Section 7.244,~~ provided that all required permits are obtained. ~~A minimum lot area of 5 acres shall be required for the keeping of any livestock. A maximum of one animal unit shall be allowed per full acre of land area of a parcel. One animal unit shall be the equivalent of: one horse or pony, steer, bull, cow, heifer or calf; or 4 swine; or 10 sheep or goats; or 20 chickens, ducks, turkeys or pheasants.~~(Note: These standards are included in the DH section and are not necessary in this section.)”

Section 4. Section 8-300(m)(5) of the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19 of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Beloit, is hereby created to read as follows:

“5. Chicken runs as defined in Section 7.244(1) of the Code of General Ordinances.”

Section 5. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect upon passage and publication.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

[Return to page 2](#)

BELOIT CITY COUNCIL

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles M. Haynes, President

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca S. Houseman, City Clerk

PUBLISHED: \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

01-611100-5231- \_\_\_\_\_

tdh/ord/Chickens=ord=120522 1341 (cln) (12-1042)

DRAFT



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information contact:  
Chris Walsh, Operations Director  
(608) 364-2929

**Holiday Collection**

**May 22, 2012** - City of Beloit's Public Works Department reminds residents that trash and recycling collection will be delayed by one day the week of May 27, 2012 in observance of Memorial Day holiday.

There will be no trash or recycling collection on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 2012.

The Recycling Drop Off Center at 2351 Springbrook Court will be *CLOSED* on Saturday, May 26, 2012 in observance of Memorial Day holiday, and June 2, 2012 to accommodate equipment/staff needs for Saturday trash/recycling collection.

For more information call the City of Beloit Public Works Operations at, (608) 364-2929.

[Return to page 2](#)