



COMMUNITY CLIFF NOTES

City of Lake Winnebago, MO | Monthly Newsletter



Congratulations Sergeant Totten and Officer Bennett

Lake Winnebago Police Department Corporal James Totten was promoted to Sergeant on December 5, 2024. I believe James has the experience, knowledge, and communication skills to further advance our department in our pursuit of utmost professionalism and continuous attention to officer safety issues. Please congratulate Sergeant Totten should you see him out and about.

Lake Winnebago Police Department Cadet Grant Bennett graduated first in his class from the Police Academy on December 18, 2024. Grant was sworn in as a Lake Winnebago police officer on December 19th and will be participating in the Lake Winnebago Police Department field training officer program for several months.

Mayor's Corner

Winter has it's challenges when you get the storm we recently received! I want to first thank the residents for being so patient with snow removal and trash pickup. Also, I would like to commend the many students that stepped up to the plate to remove snow from neighbors' driveways and sidewalks. It's great to see our next generation trying to earn some extra cash when they can.

I am not sure if residents realize we only have one full-time employee in Public Works. All others are part-time and some of them do not live here at the lake. In fact, the night before the storm they sleep on mattresses at our public works building on Allendale Lake Road to make sure they can make it in to start removing snow. Obviously, the ice didn't help matters and one of our plows broke during the snow removal. All in all, however, I think Public Works did a nice job this past week.

Our police department had their hands full especially on Saturday night. Our Police Chief was up all night along with two other officers. Multiple semi wrecks on 291, car accident on the South Shore and residents just plain stuck.

I know many of you stayed home and that was much appreciated. Once again Lake Winnebago weathered the storm.

Let's hope for better weather soon. Stay safe and warm.

Mayor Collar

HAPPY
New Year

LEADERSHIP

Michael Collar
Mayor

Nick Lombardo
Ward 1 Alderman

Steve Stephan
Ward 1 Alderman

Don Davis
Ward 2 Alderman

Jana Allen
Ward 2 Alderman

Kathy Ray
City Clerk

Steve Besermin
Public Works Director

Michael Mrachek
Police Chief

Barbara Aaron
Court Clerk

Krista Meinders
Assistant Clerk

Lake Winnebago Police Department Update

Lake Winnebago Residents,

LWPD spent much of the past weekend assisting motorists with weather-related vehicular issues. Substantial efforts were made to have MO DOT treat 291 Highway during the weekend. Thank you to the employees of Lake Winnebago Public Works for their diligent work in keeping the Lake Winnebago streets as clear as possible. Please continue to use caution when driving during the winter months.

Benjamin Lee Miller, 24, of Kansas City, Missouri, was charged in a three-count Cass County indictment, returned by a grand jury on December 18, 2024. Miller was arrested in Overland Park, KS, on December 28, 2024, in connection with these charges. Miller was extradited back to Cass County, MO, where he is currently incarcerated.

The indictment alleges that Miller committed Statutory Rape in the 2nd Degree, Felony D, RSMo 566.034, Sexual Trafficking of a Child in the 2nd Degree, Under 18, Felony Unclassified, RSMo 566.211, and Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Felony B, RSMo 573.023. All these charges originated from a June 4, 2024, incident which occurred in Lake Winnebago.

The charges contained in this indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a Cass County trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.



Lake Winnebago Police Department

Lake Winnebago Police Department Update, Continued

This case is being prosecuted by the Cass County Prosecutor's Office. LWPD was assisted by the Cass County Sheriff's Office, FBI Kansas City, KCPD Career Criminal Unit, Lenexa, KS Police Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, Overland Park, KS Police Department, and Jackson County, MO Prosecutor's Office.

As always, please email, call, or stop down at the department with any issues and/or concerns. Our goal is to keep everyone safe.

Michael G. Mrachek
Police Chief
Lake Winnebago Police Department
816.537.7900

**City Hall 816-537-6778
Police non-emergency 816-537-7900**

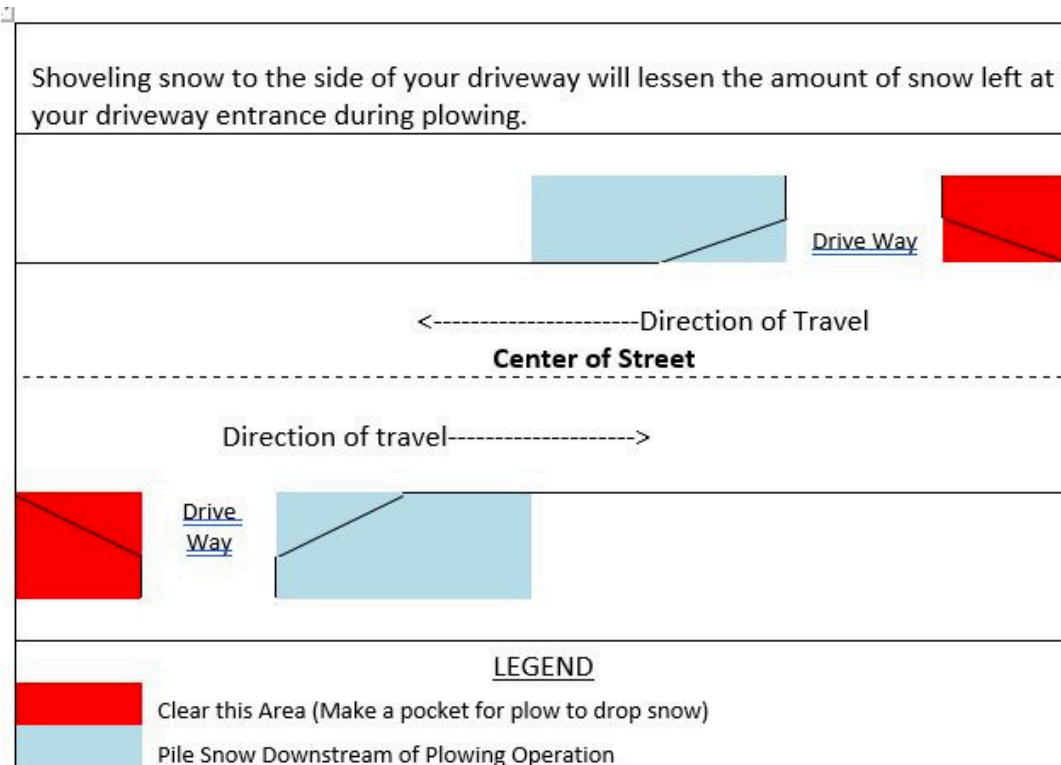
Snowplowing 101

Winter snow and ice storms always come accompanied with some plowing related frustrations and problems. Residents can help to minimize these problems with just a few tips.

City plows discharge snow to the sides and cannot skip driveways. Wait until the plows have passed, then clean the snow at the end of your driveway.

If you hire someone to plow your driveway, remind them that state and city laws prohibit pushing snow into or across the street.

Residents should shovel snow from the bottom of the driveway to the right as you face the street and reduce the level of snow to the left of the driveway to avoid plowing snow back on the driveway the next time the plow passes.



Clear snow from around your mailbox. This reduces compacted snow from post office vehicles, improving subsequent plowing and helping the postal service to deliver your mail. A mailbox in disrepair may not withstand wet or heavy snow thrown from a snowplow. Please check the condition of your mailbox posts.

Snowplowing 101 Continued

If it snows on Monday, trash day, make sure trash cans are behind the curb or in the driveway.

Residents who have had sod damage in the past can request flexible stakes from Public Works, to help plow operators to avoid future damage.

If a fire hydrant is on your property, clearing snow from around the fire hydrant is obviously very important.

For those residents with steep driveways, please try not to park on main streets until plows have passed at least once. Consider parking at the top of your driveway close to the street.

Snowplows and sanders start to work when ice or 1” to 6” of snow occurs. If ice arrives first, we may leave snow on top of the ice to allow traffic to move. Then try to clean the streets later.

If Public Works misses a street or refreezing or blowing snow piles up on a plowed street, call City Hall 816-537-6778, from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday – Friday. If it is outside of business hours, call the Police Department at 816-537-7900.

OUR PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES DO A GREAT JOB. HELPING WITH THESE FEW TIPS REDUCES THE FRUSTRATION FOR EVERYONE!



Photo by: Spencer Robinson

Hands-free Law in Missouri

Missouri's hands-free law, the Siddens Bening Hands-Free Law, prohibits drivers from holding a phone while driving. The law went into effect on August 28, 2023.

Phone Down It's the Law



EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2023

Per Senate Bill 398, all drivers on Missouri roadways shall not:

- 1 Hold or support a cell phone or other wireless device while driving. Drivers can use Bluetooth or voice-activated features while driving.*
- 2 Manually type, write, send, or read any text-based communication on an electronic communication device.
- 3 Watch, record, post, send, or broadcast a video or movie.

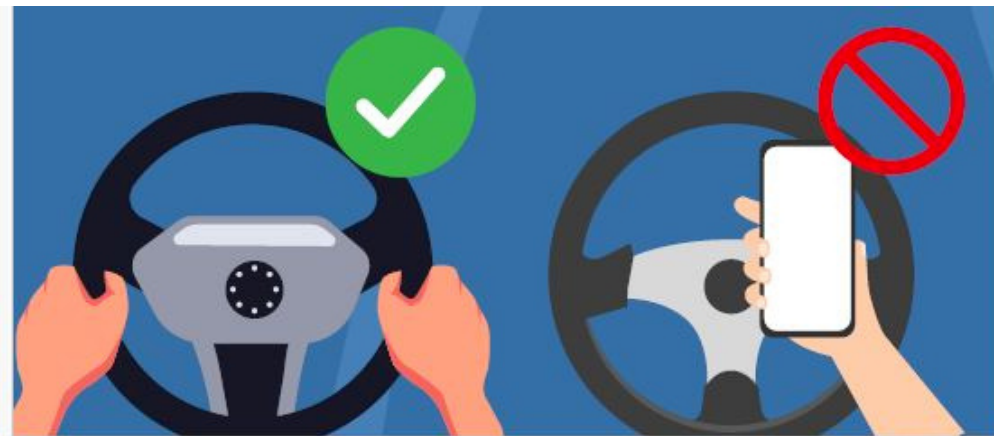
*Features include GPS and other hands-free apps

Penalties

- 1st Conviction**
Up to \$150 fine
- 2nd Conviction**
Up to \$250 fine
- 3rd Conviction**
Up to \$500 fine

Drivers can face criminal charges for crashes that result in property damage, injury, or death.

Drivers can still report a crime, medical emergency, or traffic crash.



City Stickers

All motor vehicles that are parked or garaged at Lake Winnebago are required to have a 2025 City Sticker. Current City Stickers expired 12-31-24. You will need to bring your 2024 paid personal property tax receipt to City Hall to pick up your City Sticker. If your sticker was not paid for on your 2024 personal property taxes, the fee is \$7.00 per vehicle.

Dog License

Current dog licenses expired on December 31, 2024. You may pick up your 2025 dog tag at City Hall. The cost is \$3.00 per animal and you will need to bring a current vaccination shot record showing the date of the last rabies shot. All dogs over six months old are required to be licensed in the city.



Utility Maintenance and Repairs

- 1) Not sure why there are utility flags in your yard?
- 2) Not sure who to notify when you need to dig?

[Call 811 \(click here\)](#)



Financial Report

**CITY OF LAKE WINNEBAGO
FINANCIAL REPORT
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 12.31.2024**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Enterprise</u>
Revenues				
General	1,991,519	-	-	-
Law Enforcement/Court	137,361	-	-	-
Debt Service /Street	-	404,002	651,147	-
Water/Sewer/Trash	-	-	-	2,182,560
Total Revenue	<u>2,128,879</u>	<u>404,002</u>	<u>651,147</u>	<u>2,182,560</u>
Expenditures				
General Government	794,676	-	-	-
Law Enforcement/Court	676,354	-	-	-
Street	-	292,545	-	-
Debt Service-Street				
Principal/Interest	-	-	482,310	-
Water/Sewer/Trash	-	-	-	1,781,628
	<u>1,471,029</u>	<u>292,545</u>	<u>482,310</u>	<u>1,781,628</u>
Revenues Over (Under)				
Expenditures/Expenses	<u>\$ 657,850</u>	<u>\$ 111,457</u>	<u>\$ 168,837</u>	<u>\$ 400,932</u>

TOTAL BONDED DEBT OUTSTANDING	<u>STREET</u>	<u>WATER/SEWER</u>
	<u>\$ 933,359</u>	<u>\$105,009,400</u>

These figures are unaudited.

Kathy Ray, City Clerk

Tickets for December 2024

Total: 50 tickets

Collected \$15,121.53 for the month of December 2024

Driver's License - 3

No Insurance - 6

Registration - 20

Speeding - 10

Defective Equipment - 3

Sign/Signals - 1

General Driving - 2

Fail to yield - 1

Accident - 1

Traffic/Other - 3

Warnings Written for December 2024

Total warnings written: 15

Moving Violations - 5

Registration - 4

Speeding - 3

Other - 3



Want to Receive the Monthly Cliff Notes Newsletter?



If you would like to stay up to date on current happenings at Lake Winnebago and would like to receive the monthly Cliff Notes, please send your email address to asstclerk@cityoflakewinnebago.com. We promise your email will be used for City Business only. **Note: More than one person per household is allowed to sign up!**

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

CITY OF LAKE WINNEBAGO
December 18, 2024 at 7:00pm

REGULAR BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

- ROLL CALL - Mayor Collar called the meeting to order December 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM. City Clerk Kathy Ray took roll call. Members attending were Mayor Michael Collar, Aldermen Jana Allen, Don Davis, Nick Lombardo, and Steve Stephan. Director of Public Works Steve Besermin, Sergeant Joseph Alonso, Madison Touchstone with Lauber Municipal Law, LLC, Christian E. Delozier with Mike Keith Insurance, several residents also attended. Mark Meinders, HOA Liaison was absent. City Clerk Kathy Ray served as secretary.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes 11-20-24 – Nick Lombardo moved to approve the regular Board of Aldermen meeting minutes from November 20, 2024, seconded by Don Davis. Passed with 4 yeas and 0 nays. Polling: Jana Allen-yea, Don Davis-yea, Nick Lombardo-yea, and Steve Stephan-yea. Passed unanimously.
- COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS – None.
- MAYOR – He reported that the staff has been working diligently on amending the 2024 budget and finalizing a balanced budget for 2025. He thanked the staff for their efforts. Also, met with Mike Keith Insurance to discuss the renewal for 2025. The staff attended a holiday lunch.
- BOARD OF ALDERMEN – no report.
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Presentation by: Mike Keith Insurance Agency on the renewal for general liability, law enforcement liability, public official liability, and employee benefits, property, inland marine, and automobile insurance coverage – Christian Delozier presented the Star proposals. He reviewed the changes and challenges throughout the industry. Star renewal is \$78,389, after discussion Alderman Jana Allen made a motion to accept the 2025 Star renewal of \$78,389, seconded by Nick Lombardo, Passed with 4 yeas and 0 nays. Polling: Jana Allen – yea, Don Davis – yea; Nick Lombardo-yea; Steve Stephan-yea.
 - Review Final Docket of Court, Court Fee Report and Court Bond Report for November 2024 – The Mayor confirmed the Judge had signed the docket.
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Lake development status – the mayor reported the LW amenities permit will be finalized by the end of the year.
 - Review the amended 2024 Budget for the City of Lake Winnebago – the mayor and city clerk reviewed the highlighted required amendments to the 2024 budget.
 - Review proposed 2025 Budget for the City of Lake Winnebago – the mayor and the city clerk reviewed the key highlights to the proposed 2025 budget. The budget is a particularly important task, and each department is responsible for their specific department to ensure that the city has a balanced budget.
 - Review lot BB38 – the Mayor shared that he followed up with the city legal counsel and the property owner has not violated any city ordinance, with the exception of a land disturbance permit, the city at this time does not issue land disturbance permit for any residential lots, the Mayor did share that he spoke with the developer, and the developer did gain a state land disturbance permit in 2017. The mayor shared the property owner said that he would remove the gravel on BB38 and offered to move the gravel to South Shore and Dakota to help with the Bacher farm entrance to eliminate the mud in the street. Julee Dugan of 626 Winnebago Drive asked what year the developer gained a land disturbance permit from the state, and the developer stated it was 2017. The mayor thanked the developer and property owner of lot BB38 for removing the gravel.
- BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
 - Bill No. 747-24, Ordinance No. 980 – An ordinance to amend the City of Lake Winnebago, Cass County, Missouri 2024 Budget – After Mayor Collar read by title only Bill No. 747-24, Don Davis moved to go to the second reading, seconded by Jana Allen. Passed with 4 yeas and 0 nays. Polling Jana Allen – yea, Don Davis-yea, Nick Lombardo-yea, Steve Stephan-yea. After the second reading by Mayor Collar of Bill No. 747-24, Ordinance No. 980, Don Davis moved to approve Ordinance No. 980, seconded by Jana Allen. Passed with 4 yeas and 0 nays. Polling Jana Allen-yea, Don Davis-yea, Nick Lombardo-yea, Steve Stephan-yea.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

- **BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS, CONTINUED**
 - Bill No. 748-24 Ordinance No. 981- An ordinance adopting an annual budget for the City of Lake Winnebago, Cass County, Missouri for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and appropriating funds pursuant thereto – After Mayor Collar read by title only Bill No. 748-24, Nick Lombardo moved to go to the second reading, seconded by Jana Allen. Passed with 4 yeas and 0 nays. Polling Jana Allen – yea, Don Davis-yea, Nick Lombardo-yea, Steve Stephan-yea. After the second reading by Mayor Collar of Bill No. 748-24, Ordinance No. 981, Jana Allen moved to approve Ordinance No. 981, seconded by Don Davis. Passed with 4 yeas and 0 nays. Polling Jana Allen-yea, Don Davis-yea, Nick Lombardo-yea, Steve Stephan-yea.
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - HOA/LAND COMPANY – Mark Meinders – absent – no report.
 - LEGAL – Lauber Municipal Law – Madison Touchstone – no report.
 - FINANCIAL – Kathy Ray
 - Review November 30, 2024, Financial Statements
 - Review November 2024 Check/Deposit Register - after review of the check register Alderman Nick Lombardo made a motion to accept the check register, seconded by Jana Allen, Passed with 4 yeas and 0 nays. Polling:Jana Allen-yea, Don Davis-yea, Nick Lombardo-yea, Steve Stephan-yea. Passed unanimously.
 - POLICE, FIRE, CIVIL DEFENSE – Sergeant Joseph Alonso – shared the Police Cadet graduate this evening, Grant Bennett will be sworn in on December 19, 2024, the department received and install three new laptops, the department has a new X account look for information, they will be targeting training in January and February, he ask the City attorney to follow up on understanding the new handsfree phone law.
 - PLANNING AND ZONING – Don Davis – he asked the city attorney to follow up on adding the “Use Tax” to the April ballot.
 - WATER, STREETS, SEWERS – Steve Besermin – shared the vendor Visu-Sewer will continue to repair sewer lines in the city this week and will not be working for the last few weeks of December. Also, his staff is working on sending letters to the individuals that have been identified in the Visu-Sewer report of sewer line problems.
 - OTHER BUSINESS – Alderman Nick Lombardo has a conflict for the January 22, 2025, meeting. Everyone else confirmed they would be available for the meeting.
 - ADJOURN BOARD - With no further business Alderman Don Davis moved to adjourn, seconded by Jana Allen. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.
 - Next Board of Alderman meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.