

2023 Street & Utility Improvements Construction Newsletter - 2024 Update

April 10, 2024

Construction:

- Street Reconstruction
- Storm Sewer
- Sanitary Sewer
- Water Distribution System
- Turf Restoration

Construction schedule:

Start: July 17, 2023

Finish: December 1, 2024

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Overview

As you know, the City of Pipestone has been undertaking a construction project to improve the city streets and utilities along 6th Avenue S.E., 2nd Street S.E., Main Street East, 3rd Avenue S.E., 4th Avenue S.E., and 5th Avenue S.E. The project includes the reconstruction of sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water system improvements, new street construction, and turf restoration.

Project Timeline

Competitive bids for the work were received on May 15, 2023, and the project was awarded to Hulstein Excavating, Inc. from Edgerton, Minnesota on May 24, 2023.

Hulstein Excavating is currently scheduled to begin work on or after April 22. The contract completion date for most of the work is December 1, 2024, and Hulstein Excavating is expected to meet the completion date. Completion could happen as soon as August.

Questions

Private Utilities

Private utility companies have already been working in the area to relocate their utility lines. This work is not under the direction or supervision of the City but is necessary to prepare for the proposed sewer and water installations. We understand that this work can result in rather disruptive and messy conditions and ask that you please be patient as the various contractors work to complete their individual portion of the improvements.

Service Line Connections

Sewer and water services will be constructed to your property line as part of the city project. As part of the project, we are identifying non-compliant services up to the house. If your existing sanitary or water service is non-compliant, you will be contacted about options for replacement.

Contacts

There is a project website where you can see additional information about the project and sign up for email or text updates: <https://clients.bolton-menk.com/pipestoneengineering/>. Informational newsletters, such as this one, may also be mailed to you periodically throughout the project.



Alert

Disruptions to Sewer and Water Service

Water and sewer service will always be provided. However, planned shut-downs and disruptions will occur. For any anticipated longer shutoff periods, residents will be provided a notice delivered to the front door. Your residence will be connected to a temporary water supply system until the new piping is installed and tested. This may result in a decrease in water pressure. The Contractor will be contacting you about connecting the temporary water to a working hose bib on the exterior of your home.

Private Improvements in Right-of-Way

If you have improvements such as landscaping, retaining walls, shrubs, bushes, flowers, sheds, irrigation systems, etc. in the right-of-way, they will need to be moved before the contractor performs any private service work. It is the contractor's responsibility to put all of these improvements back when they are finished. Neither the contractor nor City is responsible for damages incurred to private improvements in the right-of-way. Any underground improvements, such as irrigation lines and heads, dog fences, etc., should be located and marked so they are readily visible.

Parking

As the project moves forward, parking and access to your property will continue to change. When construction is being conducted adjacent to your property you may have to park at a neighbor's house or down the block, where your vehicle is safe and out of the way. Efforts will be made to restore access to your property as soon as it is reasonable. Access will be intermittent during underground construction and for longer periods during street grading, curb, and pavement construction. Rain will also have an impact on property access. We realize access will be difficult and thank you for your patience.



Construction

Work Area

It is quite common on these types of projects that area residents (especially children) become quite curious about the work the Contractor is performing. We ask that you please be respectful of and stay well clear of construction zones. Many hazards and dangers exist from heavy machinery, trenches, loose material, confined spaces, hot asphalt, etc. and oftentimes are not recognizable by the general public. The Contractor has the responsibility to ensure safety on the project and within the construction area. Any direction from the Contractor regarding safety must be heeded; likewise, if you observe an unsafe condition, please report it to the Construction Representative immediately.

Garbage

The Contractor will be responsible for managing garbage and recycling pick-up. They will provide access for trucks or haul bins to an accessible location. Please write or display your house number prominently on your garbage & recycle bins so that they can be returned to you.

Punch List

After the project is substantially complete, the contractor will be provided with a "punch list" of minor defects or uncompleted tasks. That work may take several weeks to complete and may even be in the following spring. This punch list work will require both your cooperation and patience. Please contact the Construction Representative for any issues you feel have not been satisfactorily addressed.

Turf Restoration

Seeded areas will be maintained by the contractor for 30 days following placement. After that, you will be responsible to maintain it as part of your own lawn (providing water, mowing, and other necessary care). Efficient watering practices are important to conserve water and maintain healthy turf. New seed roots take up to a year to reach full length and require at least 2 inches of water per week in three or four applications. When it rains watering reductions are appropriate.

To ensure successful turf establishment it is also important not to mow the grass too short. The first few times you mow, set the mower deck at least 3 inches high or at the highest setting. Do not cut more than half the plant off at a time. It is important to use caution when mowing the grass for the first growing season after placement and remember it is better to have long green grass than short brown grass and dirt.

Driveways

Avoid the use of new concrete driveways for up to a week to ensure a satisfactory non-scuff surface with no cracks.

New concrete driveways are sprayed with a white curing compound. This keeps the moisture content high in the concrete to provide for better curing and strength. Do not seal a new concrete driveway for at least 3 months. It is also best to avoid using ice melt products on the new concrete for the first year.