

Reusing One of Edgerton’s Oldest Buildings

On July 19, 2021, the City Council approved an offer to purchase 210-212 W Fulton Street in an effort to facilitate the revitalization of the structure. Other than one commercial tenant, the building is vacant as the upper two floors of apartments were earlier gutted by the owner. The City hopes to purchase the property once the structure has been evaluated to ensure its suitability for rehabilitation. The offer to purchase contains a condition that the owners make improvements to another building they own in the downtown, 2 Burdick Street. Funding for the purchase will come from TIF #6.

If rehabilitation of 210-212 W Fulton is feasible, the City plans to donate the property to Edgerton Community Outreach (ECO), which hopes to partner with the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) club to create a space for retail uses and a meeting space, both on the main floor, with apartments to serve veterans on the upper floors. “As discussed previously, I would like to see more of the proceeds from the sale of the Veterans Memorial Building be used to benefit veterans,” explained Mayor Christopher Lund. “The City gave a \$50,000 donation to the new Veterans Memorial, and this next project seems like a great place to invest more of these funds, especially if it can help provide housing for veterans and low-income families.”

Members of the VFW have been exploring more ways to help veterans and have learned that while there is a large facility assisting male veterans in Rock County, there are no housing units in the county specifically serving female veterans. VFW member Fred Falk stated, “The VFW is excited about this opportunity to partner with Outreach, an established and very successful nonprofit that has experience operating housing units for people in need. We hope to provide

support to this project benefiting veterans, especially veterans with housing insecurity. We are also exploring the possibility of having meeting space in the building. Our membership has been growing steadily and having our own meeting space is a goal of our organization. This could be a perfect fit.”

ECO will take the lead in the redevelopment effort by evaluating the structure and developing a budget. If the project is feasible, the city, ECO, and the VFW will cooperate to obtain grants and donations. ECO, and its Director Sarah Williams, have experience with historic building remodeling, having just finished the renovation of ECOs warehouse at 106 S Main Street. “We are not intimidated by a project of this size, but we will do our best to evaluate the building to make sure we will have success in the long run,” explained Williams. “We currently operate six housing units for low-income families, and we think there will be even greater demand for housing due to the impacts of the pandemic. This building needs significant investment if it is to be here in the future. If we can work with the city and the VFW to save it, while helping people get on their feet, we will consider the project a great success.”

City Administrator Ramona Flanigan indicated the owner, Andrew Arnett, is willing to sell the property for less than the assessed value because he and his wife are big supporters of veterans organizations.

Mayor Lund summarized the project, “This is a great TIF project. It not only saves two downtown structures, but it brings together three partners who can sustain the property while serving the needs of both vulnerable residents and local nonprofits.”

Term Change for the Mayor’s Office

Starting with the election in April of 2022, Edgerton’s Mayor will hold office for three years as opposed to what has historically been an office having a two year term.

Alderspersons Casey Langan and Jim Burdick introduced the idea stating, “We think there are several positives that could result if this ordinance were changed. A newcomer to the position of mayor will spend much of their first year in office learning in greater detail how the City functions. They also spend much of their first year working off of their predecessor’s budget. Likewise, many of the appointed positions on city committees will be holdovers from the previous mayor. An additional year in office would give the mayor another year to work within their own budget, and allow them to appoint more citizens to the committees of their choice.”

Langan and Burdick continued, “Currently, in even-numbered years, the mayor and three council seats are up for election. The remaining three council seats are elected in April of odd-numbered years. Therefore, half of the city’s six council members can run for mayor without giving up their council seat, the other three cannot. We realize that our rules do allow for an alderperson to run for their council seat and for mayor. However, if the candidate is successful in both elections, the Council would either appoint someone to the vacant position or call for a costly special election. We don’t believe good public servants ever want to put the City in that position.”

Look for the Lights of Central Park - November 27

Private Lead Service Water Lateral Replacement Project

The City received a DNR grant to replace approximately 100 private lead and galvanized water laterals. A water lateral (from the shut-off valve near the sidewalk to a building) is the property and responsibility of the property owner. With this unusual grant program, funds are being provided to replace the **entire privately owned** part of a water lateral. The bids the City received for the project place the average cost to replace each lateral at \$4,741.

The program is a success. Here is an excerpt from a blog post by the Environmental Policy Innovation Center that was written by Casey Langan, who participated in Edgerton's lateral program: "My family's pipe was one of an estimated 6-10 million lead service lines dispersed across 11,000 communities in the United States running the risk of lead-contaminated water. It's not often that a pressing national issue like this literally comes to your front yard."

"It bears repeating that this wouldn't have happened in my city if our state didn't cover the cost. I thankfully live in one of the most proactive states in the nation when it comes to combating this problem. Wisconsin's policies and funding have helped the Cities of Green Bay and Eagle River to remove the last of their pipes. Viroqua and Clintonville aim to do the same this year, while other cities like mine are creating programs of their own." For the entire blog, visit <http://policyinnovation.org/a-pressing-national-issue-came-to-my-front-yard>.

It is anticipated that the USEPA will pass regulations soon that will require cities to inventory all laterals within their jurisdictions so there is a clear understanding of how many lead laterals exist throughout the country. As part of the lateral replacement program, the City has inspected 216 homes so far and discovered 119 have either lead or galvanized laterals. If the DNR program still has available funding, the City will apply again next year for another grant to help more residents replace their water laterals. The City will also monitor additional funding that may be provided with the Federal Infrastructure Bill.



PUBLIC WORKS NOTICES

No sewer or water rate increase for 2022.

Compost bins for sale

There are still home compost bins available. To purchase one, stop at city hall or leave a payment in the drop box at City Hall.

Sewer backup? Call the City first.

Brush Pickup

Brush pickup is scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month through November, weather permitting. Limbs and branches should be piled or put in garbage cans at the curb. Piles should be no larger than 6 feet long and 24 inches in diameter. Garbage cans should not exceed 100 pounds. For complete information regarding the brush pickup ordinance please see the City of Edgerton website.



Leaf Pickup



Leaf pickup is scheduled to begin the week of October 18th. Please place your leaves in the street along the curb. You can assist in making leaf collection as quick as possible by not parking too close to the leaf piles and by making the piles as consolidated as possible. Please remember burning is not allowed within the City.

Fassett Cemetery Flowers & Plants

All flowers and hanging baskets must be removed by November 1st of each year or they will be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel. Flowers can be placed on or after the Friday before Veterans Day.

Winter Parking Rules

Winter snow parking regulations will go into effect on November 1, 2021. Parking is not allowed on any street or highway after a snowfall until snow is plowed back to the curb. Overnight parking in parking lots is restricted to the rear of the lots during any snowfall as posted in all lots. Parking on unplowed streets will result in a fine of \$50.00.

Brush and Compost Drop off Site

City of Edgerton residents only, can bring brush and compost to the drop off site at the back of Fassett Cemetery during posted hours. Contractors are not allowed to deposit materials at the site. City staff will ask for identification indicating all visitors are City of Edgerton residents. No material can be left at the site when the drop off site is not open.

Monday 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Thursday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sidewalks

Please have your sidewalks cleared from edge to edge of all snow and ice no later than 24 hours after a snowfall. Failure to clear walks in the appropriate time may result in a fine of \$25.00-\$200.00.