

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Norfolk’s Water Tower Coming Down late 2017- early 2018”

Although at one time the City of Norfolk’s water tower at 25th Street and Prospect Avenue was an important water storage site; with other storage tanks available and a repaint cost estimate of \$300,000, plans are for it to be replaced with an antenna tower.

According to Dennis Watts, Water and Sewer Director for the City of Norfolk, the cost of repainting it isn’t worth keeping the tower up.



“Right now its main use is as a fixture to attach antennas onto. A galvanized antenna tower doesn’t have the upkeep as this tower and won’t need to be repainted in another 15 years like this one will need to be,” Watts said.

Currently the City receives \$22,000 each year from telecommunications and Internet companies for allowing them to have their antennas on the top of the water tower. Watts added that the new tower will also be a more efficient means of supporting emergency communications equipment.

Gravity provides the water pressure that allows water users to turn on a faucet and have water flow out of the spigot. In 1942, a 750,000 gallon underground water tank was constructed at 25th Street and Prospect Avenue. The tank is covered with dirt and is the large mound still located at that site. Watts said the tank is still in use and is important to the City water system. The 200,000 gallon elevated tower was installed next to the underground tank in 1964 to better serve the northwest area of Norfolk.

As northwest Norfolk grew, more water storage capacity was needed so in 1996 an underground tank with a one million gallon capacity was installed at 49th Street and Eisenhower Avenue. The top of that tank is actually at a higher elevation than the top of the elevated tower. There is also a two million gallon storage tank located at the West Water Treatment Plant at 300 South 49th Street. That tank was painted inside and out in 2014 for a cost of about \$300,000.

At their 2014 annual retreat City council members voted to take down the elevated tower and replace it with a new \$200,000 galvanized steel tower. Estimated cost for demolition of the existing water tower is \$25,000 with plans to take it down some time late 2017 or early 2018.