



January 2016

The Year in Review From the Desk of Mayor Brent Jacobson

Each month I have taken the opportunity to update you on the recent business of the City with your utility bill mailings. This month, I felt it was important to take an opportunity to review all that has happened this past year at the City of Mosinee and preview the many exciting things to come in the New Year.

Year 2015 started with the continuation of work on our water treatment upgrade project. This project included the reconstruction of old wells and the installation of a water filtration system in an effort to improve water quality on the west end of Mosinee.

Last summer, the Council members and I toured the Public Works Department's main facility to hear an overview from department employees on the state of numerous pieces of equipment. With the help of a State Trust Fund loan, the Council approved the replacement of several outdated and overused items.

The Council also determined that several streets throughout the City were long overdue for repair. Many of these streets are included within our tax incremental finance districts and, with the help of financing that specifically anticipates the use of tax dollars from within the tax incremental districts where those improvements occur, the Council authorized a bond issue in conjunction with a multi-year repair plan.

A tax incremental district is a specific area that continues to distribute taxes to other tax entities, such as the county and school district, at a base rate, while retaining tax revenue from increases in property value beyond the base rate to finance additional improvements in that district for a statutorily set number of years in accordance with a project plan. State law only allows the creation of these districts in particular areas. Mosinee has two active tax incremental districts. Tax Incremental District #2 primarily encompasses the Central Wisconsin Business Park. Tax Incremental District #3 extends from downtown across the bridge to the old grocery store.

In Tax Incremental District #3, we have undertaken and encouraged several improvements. Through our facade improvement program the Council has approved four facade improvements this year to improve business store fronts.

To create additional parking opportunities downtown, the City removed one of the buildings it recently acquired that was in need of considerable repair. The area where the building was located will be paved and marked for parking in 2016.

Earlier this year, a tour of our Square Park downtown revealed a number of areas in need of improvement. In response, the Council approved repair to rusty benches, tables and the drinking fountain and financing for replacement of damaged electrical equipment that has gone unused for some time.

City of Mosinee



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Recognizing that our roundabout has become unattractive and aesthetically unappealing, the Council worked hard to investigate new landscape options. Working with a design firm, the Council approved proposing the following landscape concept to the Wisconsin DOT for approval, with construction planned for 2016.



This design is subject to change pending DOT approval. Larger copies of the design are available at City Hall.

To complement the new landscaping in the roundabout and improve the aesthetic appeal of the entrance to the west end of Mosinee, the Council approved the installation of a variety of decorative banners from the roundabout and extending across the bridge. These banners were installed in December.

The facade improvements, roundabout landscaping, and banners are budgeted to be financed with tax incremental revenue from Tax Incremental District #3.

Understanding that the Central Wisconsin Business Park is a significant source of employment and tax revenue for the City, staff at City Hall worked on a long overdue update to the Business Park web page and approved the use of funds that had been specifically set aside for marketing the sale of additional property in the business park to rent a billboard along I-39 northbound. The billboard design was chosen from among several designs submitted by Mosinee High School marketing students.

Property maintenance in our community should always be a priority. Unfortunately our limited full time staff is regularly stretched thin. To aid in addressing code complaints from residents, the Council approved the use of budgeted dollars to hire a part time Code Enforcement Officer. He comes highly recommended from a neighboring municipality.

In an effort to increase community awareness of City business, the City launched a text messaging service this past year. Residents can sign up to receive text message alerts regarding Mosinee events, meetings, public safety information and public works matters. Please contact City Hall for additional information on how to sign up. The Mayor's Office has also recently added a periodic e-mail update option for interested residents. In addition to monthly newsletters with utility bills, residents can sign up to get periodic updates e-mailed to them by e-mailing mayor@mosinee.wi.us with the word "MAYOR UPDATES" in the subject line.

We will continue to work hard at City Hall to make Mosinee a great place to live, work, and visit. I hope you are as excited as I am for 2016. Should you have comments, questions, or concerns, I invite you to visit us at City Hall and join us at a Common Council meeting.

Brent Jacobson, Mayor.