



City of Mosinee

October 2016



FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Leaf collection this year will again be accomplished by baling of the leaves/pine needles that are placed in the street. The City will be contracting with a custom baler to collect the leaves/pine needles. Baled leaves will then be hauled away by the Public Works Dept.

Leaf collection will begin on October 31st. Residents who want their leaves picked up must have them raked into the gutter or onto the street by 7:00am on October 31st. Public Works staff will not rake leaves out of ditches or off the curb for pickup. For the equipment to do the best job of leaf collection rake leaves away from the curb approximately 1-2 feet. Leaves that are on the street will be picked up. Baling operations are scheduled to be completed in 2 days. The City's street sweeper will clean up any remaining leaves after baling is finished. Please keep in mind that street sweeping is a slower process, so it may be a couple of days after baling before the streets are swept.

Leaf collection will only be done once. **Do not place any leaves on the street after the collection equipment has passed.** Any leaves remaining after the collection equipment has passed can be disposed of at the yard waste site on Fremont St.

DO NOT deposit rocks, sticks, brush or garden waste in the leaf piles as these items will damage the leaf collection equipment. Any leaf piles found that contain these materials will not be picked up.

Leaves and other yard waste may also be disposed of at the Yard Waste site on Fremont Street. Residents are reminded that brush is NOT ALLOWED at the yard waste site. Brush will not be picked up for persons clearing lots. Brush is picked up the week of the third Monday of each month. If you deposit brush, stumps, trees or other unacceptable garbage at the yard waste site you will be subject to fines. If you have brush for disposal call the Public Works Dept. at 715-693-3840 and leave your name and address.

Mayor Brent Jacobson 792 Fairway Dr 715-693-2275	Alderson: Marge Rein Ward 1 201 2 nd St 715-693-1199	Alderson: Nelson Pasha Jr. Ward 2 1023 Western Ave 715-693-2610	Alderson: Robert Stephens Ward 3 615 Oak Park Circle 715-297-0053	Alderson: Tom Helbach Ward 4 911 9 th Street 715-693-3072	Alderson: Keith Biedermann Ward 5 209 Willow Street 715-693-6916	Alderson: Doug Mielke Ward 6 & 7 1026 Old Hwy 51 715-693-2609	City Hall 225 Main Street 715-693-2275 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday
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Halloween Hours - October 31st - 4:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.

Election Information Center

EARLY VOTING/ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Are you traveling to a warmer climate or want to beat the long lines on Election Day? You may request an absentee ballot and vote early. You can download the absentee request form from the City's website at <http://www.mosinee.wi.us/Elections/Elections.html>. **Don't forget to include a copy of your Photo ID.** You may also vote in-person at City Hall during early voting: **September 23rd, 2016 through November 4, 2016.**

VOTER REGISTRATION

Registering to vote and/or updating your voter information PRIOR to Election Day will speed up the process for you and your fellow voters. You may register at City Hall (225 Main Street) Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Don't forget to bring proof of residency. To check the accuracy of your voter registration, go to "My Vote Wisconsin" website at <http://myvote.wi.gov>. This site also has valuable information such as poll site location and what is on the ballot. Check it out!

HEADED TO THE POLLS?

STATE IT – As always, you'll need to state your full name and address for the election official who checks you in at the poll site or the clerk's office. They'll check your information in the poll book. Some people are uneasy about announcing their name in public, but it is the law, and it helps ensure openness in elections.

SHOW IT- Next, it's time to show your photo ID. The poll workers will compare your face to your photo and confirm that you really are you.

SIGN IT – You'll sign the poll book (unless prevented due to a physical disability). Your signature or mark should go right next to your name and address. Now you are ready to vote!

General Election Information

Did you know sample ballots are available to view on our city website prior to you voting, visit: <http://www.mosinee.wi.us/Elections/Elections.html> to view your sample ballot.

City of Mosinee polls are open 7:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. Staff will be available at each polling location to assist voters during polling hours.



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Dear Mosinee Resident:

I hope this October update finds you well. Because we are now hard at work on next year's budget, I am taking this month's letter to you as an opportunity to comment on some of my short- and long-term budget goals for the future.

1. Continue to maintain and fix our roads while remaining fiscally responsible.

Twenty or thirty years ago, we lived in a time when the City actually set aside money for road reconstruction. As the state aid that municipalities were once promised from the income tax dissipated, as levy limits came into place, and as the reality of the simple cost of fixing a road in this day and age set in, any road repair became the result of borrowing. However, a five year road plan that takes twenty years to pay off and accounts for half of long-term borrowing is unsustainable. At the same time, I believe we have reached a bubble on the verge of bursting at the state transportation level. Single digit state aid increases, for a city like Mosinee, will unfortunately fix about as much road from your driveway to the end of your street. Some local governments have scrambled by draining capital project funds and implementing new taxes.

With that as a background the fact of the matter remains that our roads need repair and they are not going to stop needing repair. Unlike Wausau, I want residents to know that I would not recommend passage of a wheel tax for Mosinee residents for several reasons. First, Marathon County was already forced to implement one on account of its financial situation that residents will face for at least one year. Further, if every car in the City of Mosinee was taxed \$25 per year we might be able to reconstruct 500 lineal feet of street. Rather, I will recommend that we continue to focus on using tax incremental financing where we can to finance road repairs and avoid borrowing; target mass road repairs in years that other taxing entities are retiring long-term debt to lessen the property tax increase; and continue to finance efforts like crack sealing and seal coating designed to extend the life of recently repaired roads.

2. Continue to strengthen our tax incremental financing districts

Tax incremental financing is a critical vehicle for development in our community and one of few revenue streams that remain for municipalities to make improvements to their communities outside of raising general property taxes and long-term borrowing, neither of which are preferred. These districts work by freezing tax rates at the creation of the district, providing underlying taxing entities the same rate throughout the life of the district. Any increase in value above that base rate on account of improvements within the district is considered tax "increment," which goes toward improvements within the district. Therefore, the more improvement with increment within the district, the more value that is created for further investment.

We currently have two tax incremental districts in the City of Mosinee. District 2 mostly includes our business park and District 3 includes our downtown and select areas on the east side of the City. District 3 is still in its early years. Therefore, we have worked hard in the last 18 months to invest in property improvements, including local storefront improvements, removal of blighted property, and investment in decorative amenities, such as our bridge banners and the roundabout landscaping. Over the short- and long-term we must continue to recognize the value of using this district's own tax dollars to revitalize it and leave the City with a stronger tax base to share in when the district closes in approximately 25 years.

District 2 (mainly the business park) has been an extraordinary source of additional tax incremental revenue. While the district is at a later stage of its life than District 3, time remains to take advantage of its revenue potential. Therefore, investment in District 2 is just as important. As an example, strong infrastructure is a much needed sales piece for any prospect that would look to invest in the business park. Using the district's own tax dollars, we were able to invest in road repairs in the park this past summer.

(Continued on Next Page)

City of Mosinee

October 2016

This is an example of how we need to continue to utilize District 2's excess increment to the fullest extent during its remaining life in order to leave it in as strong a position as possible. To that end, we should continue to pursue aggressive marketing of the district, use of district dollars for infrastructure improvements, and development incentives to encourage new investment.

3. Ensure the long-term financial integrity of our water utility

In early 2015, the City implemented an approximately 47% water rate increase. With our utility now in a strong position, it is time to ensure the financial strength of that utility for the long term to avoid increases of this magnitude in the future. To do so, we must remain focused on things like simple inflationary-based rate adjustments over time and initiatives aimed at extending the life of our infrastructure and increasing our system efficiencies to minimize operational expense. These initiatives presently include things like optimizing our treatment process to minimize expense at the front end, unidirectional main flushing to decrease the amount of unsold water used annually to flush mains, and investment in extensive well cleaning to avoid more intensive, premature infrastructure repairs.

4. Increase local tourism investment by retaining control over local funds

Mosinee is a great place to live and raise a family, which is why I decided to return here after law school and buy a home together with my wife, Tessa. We take pride in sharing our great community with visitors and there are many dedicated groups that assist us in doing just that, including businesses, sports organizations, historical interests, church groups, and the arts to name several.

Like tax incremental financing, room taxes on hotel stays are one of the other few sources of revenue that municipalities have left for local investment. Unfortunately, municipalities have had to fight back against aggressive legislation that has restricted flexibility over the use of these funds. To increase local input over the use of room taxes, we created a tourism commission last spring. Through this commission I will encourage using more of our room tax dollars to support and grow local tourism activity. I will encourage directly supporting local groups that bring out-of-town visitors to Mosinee and tangible municipal development in our recreation infrastructure used by traveling sports like hockey, softball, horseshoe and others.

5. Remembering the small things that make a big difference in our community.

As a community, we have done a lot of small things that make us stand apart in a big way from other, smaller communities where they get neglected. These are things as simple as maintaining landscaping around our public buildings, roadways, and parks; adding a fresh coat of paint to a building; or polishing up park equipment like benches, tables, and fountains.

When we forget the small things, we miss the opportunity to make a big impression on those who would consider investing in our community as a resident or business owner/operator, and small cuts can often make many of them happen. When a local church group volunteered their time and effort toward sprucing up our landscaping around City Hall and the public library, for example, we contributed extra bark and I redirected money from the mayor's budget to be used for planting. When park equipment at our Square Park downtown was rusting over, we found money in the budget for refinishing. While the list of items that need to be addressed is long, I will continue to encourage that we not lose site of the little things like these and work as hard to find ways to address them as we do for the big things.

Mayor Brent Jacobson