

City of Fosston | 220 1st St E Fosston, MN 56542 | 218-435-1959 | 218-435-1961 fax | www.fosston.com
Fosston Police Department 24/7 Non Emergency Line—218-435-6611. For emergencies dial 911

AUGUST 2024 CITY NEWS

Report from the City Administrator

It has been a busy year at the city so far. The year started with the audit of the financials of the city in January. We received our results in April and increased cash in all funds except the water fund.

We have been working on finalizing our \$5.8 million EDA grant for the Industrial park and working towards beginning construction this year. These federally funded projects come with a fair amount of paperwork and benchmarks to meet.

The Johnson Avenue water infrastructure and paving project has been completed. Also, paving of the cul de sacs at Omland Park has been completed. The work at Omland Court was paid for 100% with state grant funds the city received.

The parks and rec department completed another successful year of swimming lessons and summer rec activities with over 200 kids participating! The pool welcomed an additional 7 communities to receive swimming lessons. The department has taken on some new projects in sprucing up a few areas of town. The pickleball courts have been completed and are now available for public use. Another \$250,000 grant was awarded for the installation and replacement of sidewalk on Second Street Northeast. That project may happen next year or in 2026 at the latest. We also have a trail project in Berge Park happening next year. We are currently working through the grant funds and associated reporting for the project. Two more trail projects are scheduled for 2026 and 2027. In 2026 an extension from the complex to Calvary church will be done with grant funding. In 2027 trail from Calvary/St. Marys to Eaton Avenue will be installed with grant funding.

The library stucco is seeing a much needed replacement this summer. Last year the roof was replaced at the library as well as the Civic Center. The library has also had both sidewalks to its entrances replaced in the last two years.

At the airport the new pavement, lighting and marking has been completed on the runway. A new 6 unit T hangar will be constructed beginning this Fall as well. These projects are supported by FAA and EDA funding with only a 5-20% match to the city.

The utilities and street department has been busy updating transformers, service lines, performing leak tests on natural gas, installing new services, painting curbs, crosswalks and parking spaces throughout town and of course keeping the grass mowed and the city looking great!

City Administration staff have attended trainings, welcomed a new staff member and re-assigned roles this summer. Our city administration staff has a combined 32 years of experience at City Hall and remains dedicated and committed to serving the community bringing fresh new perspectives and ideas to better serve you.

The police department continues to provide monthly updates via this newsletter and continues to attend trainings and engage with the community on a daily basis. We are happy to be back to full staff.

The City bus continues to serve the community as the smallest MNDOT funded transit system in the state of Minnesota. We hope you have appreciated the added service on Saturdays. We are thankful for our dedicated drivers and the support from our riders.

The Small Cities Owner Occupied Rehabilitation grant was fully executed and residents are actively working with NWMNHRA to prepare for their home improvement projects. Residents who stay in their home for at least 7 years will not have to pay back the funds. Since 2020 we have written and been awarded approximately \$13million in grants. On average I write two to four grants for city projects per year as part of my role as Administrator. We have been very fortunate to have been awarded most of those.

Next year is shaping up to be another busy year with a potential 5 block street improvement project on 5th St, an 8 block sidewalk project, the Berge park trail project, and the bulk of the work on the industrial park project.

Lastly, the Essentia dispute has taken a lot of time and energy. However, I feel that the city has been well served in all areas in spite of this time consuming challenge. I am thankful and proud of all those who have stepped up in recognition of the importance of this issue for the future of Fosston. The actions we are taking now are so important to ensure Fosston continues to be a great place to live, work and visit and a community that provides many healthcare services. I remain fully engaged and committed to the residents, business owners and all those I am fortunate enough to serve for the great City of Fosston. ~Cassie Heide

Coming Events:

- City Council Meeting—
Monday, August 12th,
7p.m.
- Primary Election—
Tuesday, August 13th
7am—8pm, Embassy
- Dog Vaccine Clinic—
Tuesday, August 20th.
- School starts—Tuesday,
September 3rd

Drive-Thru Vaccination Clinic

For only \$5, you can get your dog up to date on the rabies vaccination and registered with the City of Fosston in one stop.

When: Tuesday, August 20th 4pm-6pm

Where: Fosston Fire Hall

Who: Dr. Paula Davis will be administering vaccines

What to bring: Current vaccination records if possible



Nikki Juve



Meet the city staff that serve you!

Department:

Administration

Date started at city:

July 1, 2024

Favorite part of working at the

city: “I love the fact that each day what we do is for a greater good for our community of Fosston. All departments are unified, working together in so many ways to serve the citizens here. We have an awesome team!”

Hobbies/activities: “I love spending time with our family. I have a wonderful husband of over 30 years, 3 grown daughters, 2 son-in-laws and 4 grandchildren! I also enjoy spending time around a bonfire, traveling, (especially somewhere warm in the winter), reading and spending time outdoors hiking.”

Fun fact about Nikki: “I never really liked watching football when I was younger, but now am in a fantasy football league with a group of ladies and am anxious for football I season to start!”

Motto: “Do the extraordinary even when the ordinary is acceptable.”

Please call City Hall (435-1959) to secure your spot. We hope to vaccinate as many dogs as possible, but pre-registered pets will take priority.

This clinic is available to residents of City of Fosston only. Cash or check will be accepted—no cards. All dogs must be on a leash at all times.

News from the Police Department

Our new officers, Chief Phil Juve and Officer Seth Senn are settling into the new positions and are getting up to speed on the things that are going on in the city.



The Fosston Police Department would like the residents of Fosston to be aware of the phone numbers that are important as they relate to officers responding to emergency calls versus non-emergency calls. If you have an emergency, please be sure to call 911, which will ring into the Polk County dispatch center. If you have a non-emergent situation within the city limits of Fosston, the number to call is 218-435-6611.

Also, please be sure that your home has a house number displayed that is visible from the road. If the police department responds to your home for an emergency, it is important that we are able to discern what house is yours. Most homes have house numbers visible, but some are hard to read as the numbers are old and worn. Putting new numbers that are a contrasting color to your home would be ideal and would assist us with locating your home if we are responding to an emergency.

Lastly, please be sure to take advantage of the pet clinic that is being sponsored by the City of Fosston on August 20th from 4pm-6pm.