

City of Forsyth

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This is the second of three articles that will provide information associated with the City's growth plan. In my article of September 26 I outlined the major goals and objectives of the growth plan. No growth plan will be of value if the goals and objectives are not implemented. This article will summarize some of what has been done to implement those goals and objectives. The third article will finish the review of the growth plan.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Capital Improvement Plan: The City has prepared a Capital Improvement Plan to cover proposed projects for the next 5 years. The City council has approved the following projects and these projects are either in process of being completed or have been completed.

Completed Projects: Replace current meter reading system, renovate the bathroom at Riverside Park, camera video the dike culverts, purchase and install Riverside Park playground equipment, make roof repairs at City Hall, install new front doors at City Hall

Projects in Process of Completion: Upgrade computer and control panel at water plant, repair roofs at the pool, repair roof at water plant.

Additional Capital Improvement Items: Also included in the 5 year C.I.P. are the following items: City Hall, replace ceiling tile and lights, new copier, new safe; City Shop, new shop lights, window replacement, lift truck, skid steer, dike maintenance; Water/Sewer, Riverview Villa booster pump; Parks, renovate Marcyes park restroom; Pool, boiler update, upper level window replacement.

Continue Maintenance and Improvement of Streets: The City has developed a two year rotation schedule for street maintenance and improvement. In fiscal year 2015-2016 the City allocated and spent approximately \$300,000.00 on significant street maintenance and improvements. In fiscal year 2016-2017 the City spent approximately \$70,000.00 for patching/dura patching. In 2017-2018 the City will again allocate and spend approximately \$300,000.00 for significant street repairs and in 2018-2019, \$70,000.00 on patching. In the near future the same basic allocation is expected.

TOURISM

Custer Circle Project: Seventeen historically accurate signs have been placed documenting the movement of General Custer through southeast Montana and Rosebud County. Visit Southeast Montana Tourism will develop and implement a substantial marketing effort associated with the project in the spring of 2018.

Guide to Historic Forsyth: Efforts are also underway to review and revise the Guide to Historic Forsyth. This project was sponsored and completed through the Horizons Project with assistance from the Forsyth Chapter Business Professionals of America, and the Montana Historical Society.

REVIEW AND UPDATE CITY ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

The City council is in the process of reviewing and revising the entire City code book. There are 14 titles in the code book. Eight titles have been reviewed and revised. Three titles remain to in this process: Title 7, Police Regulations, Title 9, Motor Vehicles and Traffic and Title 11, Building Regulations.

Title 12, Zoning Regulations and Title 13, Subdivision Regulations have been reviewed and revised by the Council

IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY DECAY ORDINANCE

A significant effort, during the past 4 years, has been made to enforce the decay ordinance. A substantial number of junk/abandoned vehicles have been removed from City right of way, numerous old buildings/trailers have been demolished/or removed, property owners have been encouraged to keep property clean, remove weeds, mow weeds and remove debris. This is an ongoing effort and hopefully will continue in 2018 and beyond.

DEVELOP A YOUTH MENTORING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Copies of the growth plan were provided to school administrators. This would be a program that could be developed and implemented by the school district. Local businesses could be asked to work with the school district in providing mentoring and development of employment skills.

Copies of the growth plan and other related documents are available for viewing at City Hall. The growth plan is also available at the Rosebud County Library and the Chamber's website: www.forsythmt.org.

