

6 POINTS OF FOCUS TO KEEP OUR CITY MOVING IN THE



Fiscal Responsibility – The City of Fairmont maintains a fund balance reserve between 55% - 65% of the General Fund expenditures, which is approximately \$6.5 million. In 2018, the fund balance is 72.9%. The healthier balance is due to allocating \$1,950,000 for construction of a new Street/Park Department building in 2019. Fairmont’s tax base continues to grow, while maintaining a competitive tax climate. Fairmont is known as having one of the lowest tax rates of fourteen Minnesota cities of comparative size.

Economic Collaboration – In 2016/2017, six extensive construction projects, with building permit values equal to \$8.4 million, occurred within City limits. Collaborative efforts between the City and Fairmont School District created Whitetail Ridge, a twenty-lot housing subdivision, with eight lots sold to date. On March 8, 2018, the Minnesota Works website listed 298 job postings within a thirty-mile radius of Fairmont and an unemployment rate for Martin County under 3%, well below the national rate of 4.1%. Fairmont partners with a variety of entities to help leverage long-term resources for our economic development efforts. Partnerships are maintained with the Minnesota Marketing Partnership, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Greater Minnesota Partnership, the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, Region Nine Economic Development Committee, Green Seam and AgriGrowth.

Human Capital – Fairmont attracts people to the community through ‘Fairmont Area Life’, a collaborative project between the City, Fairmont Chamber of Commerce and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. This project focuses on recruiting individuals between the ages of 30-49, to return to the Fairmont community. The City of Fairmont maintains the human resources in law enforcement to keep the community safe, in the Park Department to maintain our valuable recreational amenities, in the Street and Public Utility Departments to maintain our infrastructure that drives all aspects of the community and in the Financial, Administrative, Legal and Customer Service Departments that work behind the scenes to ensure municipal day-to-day operations focus on serving our customers. All of these individuals work to ensure we have a successful City for people to live and conduct business. Fairmont also has a volunteer base second to none!

Community Infrastructure – Since 2006, Fairmont has spent approximately \$49 million on wastewater and water treatment infrastructure. These updates should take us 50 years into the future by continuing to provide safe drinking water and a sanitary means to dispose of wastewater. While Fairmont has “pot holes” like all other cities, the City invests roughly \$2 - \$5 million every other year on major road projects.

Recreation and Amenities for All Ages – Fairmont upgraded two main channels between our lakes to allow for better utilization of these key outdoor assets. The City recently imposed a ½% local option sales tax to help fund a community center, trails and additional recreational amenities. The City Council approved funding of \$125,000 for a community center business plan and \$150,000 towards construction of an inclusive playground in 2017/2018. Fairmont continues to maintain an extensive park and trail system, consisting of 27 parks and over 500 areas of green space.

Supportive Government – “Saturday Mornings with the City”, a new community engagement initiative, was started by Mayor Foster in 2018. These quarterly one-hour events allow for City Council and Staff to listen to and engage citizens within the community. The City of Fairmont partnered with many local volunteer organizations to act as fiscal agents for grants and fund-raising opportunities. Additionally, the City has partnered with the Fairmont School District for implementation of a School Resources Officer position, with Martin County at the Law Enforcement Center, with Martin County Townships to update fire service agreements and with the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District to address invasive species and water quality issues for our lakes.

From all of us at the City of Fairmont, thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Fairmont.

~ Mike Humpal, City Administrator

Residential Development

Historical indicators predict 2018 to be another strong year for residential development in Fairmont, the Fairmont Economic Development Authority announced in their annual report. In 2017, Fairmont issued 284 residential permits, down 27 from 2016. Despite the decline, the total value of residential permits increased \$2,900,000 from 2016 to 2017, totaling over \$4,700,000. Currently, numerous projects are in various stages of approval, indicating 2018 will be another strong year for residential construction. For the complete 2017 FEDA Annual Report, please visit www.fedamn.com.



Whitetail Ridge

A great location for your new home

The newly developed Whitetail Ridge subdivision is located at the intersection of South Prairie Avenue and Belle Vue Road. This tranquil location consists of 14.7 acres, 6.7 of which are classified as an “open space” or natural buffer, as they are wetland and wooded. Twenty lots in this serene setting have been subdivided, spanning from 12,300 ft² - 17,750 ft², with lot prices ranging from \$40,000 - \$60,000, which includes all utility costs and street assessments. Contact 507.238.3936 for additional information.

These buildable lots are waiting for you!



SATURDAY MORNINGS WITH THE CITY

Mark your calendar for the upcoming ‘Saturday Mornings with the City’ events. These quarterly one-hour events engage City Council, City Staff and Community Residents in casual meaningful conversations aimed at strengthening relationships between the community and the local government. We look forward to seeing you!!!

Saturday Mornings	Date	Location	Featured Topic
	May 5	Cedar Creek Park	Improvement Program & Trail System
	August 18	Gomsrud Park	Fairmont’s Economy
	November 17	Southern Minnesota Educational Campus	Preliminary Budget for 2019

City Council

Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays at 5:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Debbie Foster	235-5826	Mayor
Tom Hawkins	238-3678	Council Member At-Large
Bruce Peters	238-4507	Ward 1
Ruth Cyphers	236-2710	Ward 2
Jim Zarling	238-9303	Ward 3
Wayne Hasek	235-3974	Ward 4

City Hall

Office hours Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
100 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont

Mike Humpal	238-3936	City Administrator
Elizabeth Bloomquist	238-3939	City Attorney
Paul Hoyer	238-3934	Finance Director
Patty Monsen	238-3935	City Clerk
Troy Nemmers	238-3942	Public Works Director/City Engineer