

Looking Forward



Stigler City Manager Bobby Mouser is pleased with the opportunities and advantages available in the city and is optimistic about its future.

Partnership

The City of Stigler partnered with the Choctaw Nation this year to complete a review and upgrading of the last economic/strategic development plan that was completed as a community about five years ago.

"Some of the takeaways from (the new economic development plan) are some of the things that we will be focusing on going forward," Mouser said.

They include:

To continually improve the city's website and electronic communications. "It's a wonderful tool, not only for the citizens to access, and to interact and do business with the city, but it's also a wonderful tool from a commerce and economic development perspective."

"We've entered into an agreement with a consultant to assist with updating and improving the website; not only now, but going forward. That was one of the strong suggestions," he said. The city and Stigler-Haskell County Chamber of Commerce share a website because both are focused on providing information about the city and promoting its many advantages.

The ability to have and retain a healthy hospital. "The city, the county and all other interested parties have been working diligently on that goal for an entire year," he said.

The need to invest in school infrastructure.

The recommendation to improve state Highway 9 as a commerce corridor. The city has and will continue to contact state officials, and partner with other municipalities and draws along state Highway 9 as it focuses on improvements.

Many of the issues recommended in the economic development plan which was completed five years ago have been addressed, Mouser said.

The wastewater plant has been in operation for two years, the water plant has been online since late last year, water towers have been rehabbed and the city is in the process of installing automatic meters for the water system. "I think that's huge for a town of our size to have meters that will be monitored via radio frequency that we can interrogate and read remotely, which will improve accuracy, customer service and billing, for the city and its customers." Installation is expected to be completed by summer of this year.

Stigler Municipal Airport

The airport hanger pad site project is complete, Mouser said. Infrastructure is installed and several pads are available for lease.

"It's our hope that we will see some building activity this year," he said. Improvements to the apron and the access road to the airport gate are in the planning stages, and are part of the city's ongoing partnership with the Federal Administration Association.

Sales tax revenue

"We continue to be excited about the increases in sales tax revenue," Mouser said. The city's sales and use taxes are up five percent the first six months of the fiscal year.

Chamber, volunteers

"The partnership with the chamber of commerce continues to provide tremendous opportunities for the community," Mouser said. The city's marque events, including the Christmas Parade, the Easter Egg Hunt and Reunion Days, continue to grow in size and popularity. "That's a result of hard work of paid professionals and volunteers who help Stigler anytime they get an opportunity," Mouser said.

He added that the area's clubs and organizations continue to be very generous with their time and money. "That makes a huge difference as well," he said.

Sports

"This will be the first year to have our sports complex open for a full year," Mouser said.

"The sports and recreation department has partnered with the local community and put together various committees to work with the sports and recreation department to ensure that we offer the best opportunities for all of our citizens, not just the youth, to enjoy the sports complex in a safe and affordable manner. And so far, it's paid big dividends," Mouser said.

He added that he is pleased the community made a decision to use some of the proceeds from last year's baseball season to rehab the city's existing fields. Although the cost was substantial, the city will receive dividends for many years. "The investment will allow those fields to be top notch for the next five or six years," he said.

Mouser added that the city will also benefit from its investment in the sports and recreation website, stiglersportsandrec.com, which offers online sign-ups, scheduling, rosters and real time scoring.

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