

City Manager December Report

The following December report will give an overview of the objectives accomplished this past month, as well as future plans:

Youth Advisory Committee

The City will launch a new Youth Advisory Committee beginning in February, initially focused on junior and senior students to create a strong first cohort. The committee's purpose is to connect students to local government, build leadership skills, and encourage meaningful civic participation by involving members in ongoing and future City projects. In addition to hands-on involvement, the committee will include an educational component where students learn how city government works—such as Council and staff roles, public meetings, budgeting basics, local services, and how residents can provide input—so they can better understand and contribute to decisions that affect the community.

Sustainable Growth

Future-focused planning helps a city move from reacting to problems to managing them proactively by identifying upcoming needs for roads, water and sewer systems, parks, and public safety, and aligning those priorities with expected growth, housing, and economic development. With a clear long-range plan, the city can coordinate with partners, pursue grants, and schedule major projects in a way that reduces disruption and delivers the greatest community benefit. Fiscal responsibility is what makes that planning sustainable—building budgets that match ongoing revenues, maintaining adequate reserves for emergencies and downturns, planning for the full lifecycle costs of facilities and infrastructure, regularly evaluating spending and results, and using debt carefully to avoid shifting unreasonable costs to future taxpayers. Together, strong planning and sound financial management protect essential services, strengthen transparency and public trust, and keep the city stable and prepared to meet community needs now and, in the years, ahead.

Serving Together

When I began as a city manager in 2023, I could not imagine the learning curve that would happen over the next several years...it is still curving. But at no point did I feel without support or someone who could help bring clarity to the many requirements and expectations I face each day. That has only been possible because of an extremely capable staff and a Council that has allowed me to grow into this role. As a city staff we are here to support you. Your questions and input make us better, please reach out anytime so we can help.

Community Outreach

This will be a regular section that I will include with each report. This is a way for myself and the council to keep in mind the importance of ongoing outreach to our community and highlight what has been done and will be upcoming for the future.

- A. Community Development
- B. Mid-Year Budget Planning
- C. Veteran Benefits Mtg
- D. PD Building Planning
- E. Local Infrastructure Meeting
- F. MIRL Onboarding
- G. Splash Pad Park Meeting
- H. Morrow County School District
- I. Fire District Board
- J. Chamber Board Meeting
- K. Port of Morrow Commission Meeting
- L. BCDA Monthly Mtg
- M. SBA Federal Grant
- N. County Commission
- O. Safety Committee
- P. City County Insurance Services
- Q. Chamber Quarterly Mtg
- R. Morrow County Work Session
- S. Water Steering Committee Workshop
- T. GIS Draft Review
- U. Officer Graduation
- V. Local Business Communication

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

2025-26

General	PROGRESS	Cost Estimate
BPA Greenspace	Completed	\$390,000
Splash Pad	Summer 2026	\$550,000
Planning		
Economic Opportunity Analysis	Nov est. completion	\$60,000
Transportation System Plan	Completed	Grant Funded
Parks Master Plan	Completed	\$40,000
Development Code	May 2026	\$150,000
Municipal Code	In progress	-----
Streets/Sidewalk		
S Main Project	In progress	\$5,000,000
Annual Street Improvements	Est February 2026	\$2,000,000
Storm Water Flow	TBD	\$600,000
Water/Wastewater		
NE Front Sewer	Completed	\$160,000
Bio Solids Removal	Summer 2026	\$1,250,000
Headworks Screen & Septage	Est February 2026	\$1,050,000
Receiving Station		
Hypochlorite System	Completed	\$380,000
Collector 2 Improvements	Est January 2026	\$150,000