

Fosston, Minnesota

December 2025

CITY NEWS

DECEMBER

- 15 7PM City Council Meeting
- 17 12:30-3PM - Food Shelf Open
- 25 Christmas Day (City Office Closed)
- 25 Free Holiday Meal - 5-8PM
Erskine Community Ceter
218-280-2992 to sign up

JANUARY

- 1 New Years (City Office Closed)
- 7 12:30-3PM - Food Shelf open
- 12 7PM City Council Meeting
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(City Office Closed)
- 21 12:30-3PM Loaves and Fishes
Food Shelf Open

Snowstorm Parking Reminder from the Fosston P.D.

As we head into winter weather, the Fosston Police Department would like to remind residents to please remove all vehicles from city streets prior to a snowstorm. Doing so helps our maintenance crews clear the streets quickly, safely, and effectively.

City Ordinance 72.08

"Following a snowstorm, no car shall be parked on the street until the snow has been removed by the city maintenance personnel."

Thank you for your cooperation in helping keep our roads safe and our snow removal efficient!

Projects, projects, and.... More projects

2025 Reflection from Cassie Heide, City Administrator

As 2025 comes to a close, I pause and reflect on what was done for the good of the order, as they say, in the City of Fosston in 2025.

I can sum it up as projects, projects, and more projects. The city's 40-acre fourth expansion to its Industrial Park came to a close this fall. This federally and state-funded project is set to come in under budget. Lots are available for industrial or commercial tenants immediately. I attribute the success of this project to our reliable and efficient engineering team, AE2S. I also credit city staff who administered the project behind the scenes, and those out in the field that ensured the project progressed accordingly. Gordon Construction of Mahnommen came in with a low bid, earning the contract. Their steady work and timeliness also contributed to the success of this project. Gustafson & Goudge of Clearbrook earned the low bid on the T-Hangar portion of the project. The new six-unit T-hangar is complete with three tenants so far. This is the first city owned airport hangar and came at a time where our interest list was its highest number. The federal and state funding that was secured to make these projects happen was the single largest award the city has ever received.

On 5th Street Northeast, the water and wastewater pipes that had exceeded their useful life were removed and replaced with new infrastructure designed to last for decades. New street pavement and new sidewalk were installed. This project came in just over budget as unforeseeable issues, such as water lines routed to the street that were thought to be routed elsewhere, were found and taken care of accordingly. Again, AE2S engineered the project and ensured its successful completion... *Continued on pg. 2*

City staff worked both behind the scenes to manage the project and paperwork and out in the field alongside the contractors to ensure the city's remaining infrastructure stayed preserved. We may have had a Holt Addition resident help with construction oversight, and I hear a local resident helped stave off cramps with daily pickle juice shots for the sweaty construction workers. If our residents keep this up, we're sure to get low bids in the future!

We haven't had a year when we haven't installed additional trails in quite some time. The long-awaited Fit Trail in Berge Park was installed late this summer and the city has heard raving reviews about this trail. Gordon Construction was the low bidder on this project and worked efficiently to ensure this project was completed on budget. Karvako Engineering of Bemidji engineered the project and kept things going smoothly. City staff did their part for this trail project as well. Speaking of parks, I'm sure many of you have heard that the city is finally replacing the 20 year-old playground equipment at Berge Park. The City Council voted this fall to purchase inclusive and impressively large playground equipment that will be accessible for all. This new playground equipment is sure to be the centerpiece of our community and something that our neighbors will envy.

The dispute is ongoing with Essentia Health. You've likely read in our recent press release we've been forced to take Essentia Health to District Court to get them into arbitration in order to exercise our right to terminate the agreement and restore local control to the community. Our goal remains the same – secure our healthcare future by ensuring that our healthcare partner practices the same care values that this community deserves.

In other news, a new business opened this Fall. Headwaters Health is a primary care clinic seeing approximately 65 patients per day with many familiar faces providing that care. Other Fosston businesses found new, larger, more accommodating spaces within the city; a few changed ownership, and several saw nice exterior improvements. Overall Fosston businesses are thriving and ready to serve their customers.

If the Essentia dispute wasn't enough, MNDOT hit us with shocking news that the one traffic signal that has controlled the Johnson Avenue intersection for 70 years was no longer warranted and would be removed and not replaced with the reconstruction project in 2027. The city took swift action to address this matter engaging with legislators and hiring an engineering firm to review MNDOT's report and perform its own intersection analysis. That report was presented to MNDOT mid November. Many of you took action and attended the public meeting MNDOT held and/or called MNDOT officials urging them to reconsider. Some farmers offered, and were taken up on giving rides to MNDOT officials to have hands on experience. We appreciate the passion in the community relating to the traffic signal and overall safety of our community. As of writing this, I do not yet know what the outcome will be.

When the federal government shuts down, your local government does not. We continued to work and serve our residents. The shutdown caused some temporary tension on the city's financials with having nearly one million dollars owed to us by the federal government in the midst of the shutdown. I am happy to report, though, that all funds expected to be received have been.

I'm sure you have noticed the newsletters looking spiffier along with our website and social media accounts being kept up to date as well as countless other areas of improvement within the city. The addition of a part-time communications coordinator, Kirby Vossler, has proven to be a needed and effective addition! Your city staff continue to come to work with enthusiasm, are engaged and genuinely happy to serve the community. For that, I am truly blessed and hope that you all see that come through in the services you are provided by the fine folks I am honored to work alongside. I, too, continue to consider it a pleasure to serve you all as the City of Fosston City Administrator.

2026 is looking to be just as busy as 2025 with two trail projects, another project that will replace water, wastewater, road pavement, and install the new playground equipment at Berge Park along with the kickoff of planning for a splash pad.

Lastly, I invite you to attend our City Council meetings. You really can glean a lot of useful information, and I promise you won't be bored to tears. The council meets on the second Monday of every month at 7pm and conducts the business of the city. As always, be the change you wish to see in the world. This year, the handful of folks on 2nd St NE reminded us what that really looks like. Their courage to make a difficult change, simply because they believed our community deserved better, has been an inspiring example for us all.

**CONTACT
THE CITY**
220 East First St.

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Police non-emergency: 218-435-6611
General Information: 218-435-1959
City Hall Hours: 8:00-4:30 M-F

