



Black Jack
MISSOURI

OUR TOWN NEWS

CITY OF BLACK JACK

SUMMER 2015

City of Black Jack Fiscal year audit shows City continues to be in excellent financial shape.

At the January 20th Council Meeting, the City Council approved the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. The audit which was performed by Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLC. showed that the City of Black Jack continues to be in excellent financial shape.

Some Audit Highlights:

Total Revenue for the Fiscal Year was \$2,910,119
Total Expenditures for the Fiscal Year was 2,302,159
The Cities fund balance as of July 1st was \$4,380,478
General Fund revenues were \$72,432 above the budget
General Fund expenditures were \$111,684 or 5% below budgeted expenditures.

The City of Black Jack has not imposed a Real or Personal Property Tax on residents or businesses that is used to fund General Revenues. The City property tax rate for street bonds 2014 was \$0.49 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The City of Black Jack has a low voter approved 3% Utility Tax on electric, gas and water service. A new section on the audit this year is a summary of the fines and court costs that are collected in municipal court for traffic violations. The amount collected this year was 5.79% which is well below the 30% allowed.

Mayor Norman McCourt said "I am pleased to report to the residents I serve, that the audit shows in a positive way that due to our continuing efforts, we are in excellent financial shape".

"GREEN INITIATIVES" PROVE TO BE A COST SAVING MOVE FOR THE CITY OF BLACK JACK.

For the last few years, Mayor Norm McCourt and the City Council have been looking toward the future for innovative ways to continue to make the City of Black Jack prosper through tough economic times. Two examples of innovative thinking on their part were; to reduce the cost of energy used by City Hall and the amount of paper used by City Officials. The first endeavor included installing solar panels on the roof of City Hall to generate electricity; reducing the cost of energy to power the building. In the first year, the City has seen a savings of over \$1,900 in the yearly cost of powering the City Hall building. The second initiative was to have the City Council go to a paperless distribution system where almost all communication would be done electronically. This system has been in place for approximately a year and a half now and has saved the City around \$400 in paper cost.

"The City will continue to look for ways to move the City forward in a manner that is financially sound and a positive benefit to our residents. It is amazing the amount of money that can be saved for our residents using technology that was not available just a few years ago. I want our city to remain being on the leading edge of technology, where we are leading the crowd, not following them".

- Mayor Norm McCourt

Celebration of Service to the City

The City recently honored Volunteers, City Officials and Employees that have served the City for 15 plus years at a special celebration in front of City Hall at the new Memorial Gardens Site. Mayor Norm McCourt was the emcee as honorees had a brick with their name engraved on them placed in the walkway path leading to the site. The event will now be held annually to celebrate the contributions to the City of Black Jack. The City will also be placing a memorial plaque to honor members of the armed services that have served our country.



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

How Should Black Jack Look in 10-Years?

The City of Black Jack recently entered into a contract with Streiler Planning to update our "Comprehensive Master Plan". A Master Plan is a blue print of the city that looks at the current development and uses data from various sources to predict the future. Some of the categories are land uses, housing, transportation, economic development, community resources and public facilities. The plan is an advisory document that defines how the community sees itself developing in the future and how they plan to get there.



I have recently appointed a Advisory Committee to work with the planning group to provide community information, interface with residents and provide the support that is necessary for the effective development of the plan. The plan development process will consist of approximately ten steps and will take approximately one-year to complete. A key to this process will be public input sessions that will be held during the plan update process. They will include public meetings, WEB surveys, and focused meetings where you will have the opportunity to express your feelings about the City and what you believe the City should look like in the future.

The most important thing to remember is that change will happen over time and it is up to us as residents of the City of Black Jack to decide our future by choice and not chance. Our plan must be flexible and able to adjust to changes as our community evolves and new priorities and opportunities present themselves.

For current information on the update process as it evolves over the next year, please go to www.cityofblackjack.com. I would also like to encourage you to attend the public sessions and express your opinion as to how you would like the City to look in 5 to 10 years. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Committee please contact Karen Robinson, City Clerk at 314 355-0400.

RESIDENT

EMERGENCY ALERT SIGN UP

Stay connected to your local police department, your children's schools, your local community agencies and organizations, and the important information from other locations throughout the country that are relevant to you. This information includes weather alerts for our community.

Visit www.cityofblackjack.com to learn more and to sign up.

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