



December 19, 2018

## **Mayor Bell's 2018 City of Morenci Year in Review**

With the year about to come to an end in just a few short days, I would like to take a moment and reflect on the tremendous amount of activities and accomplishments of our city during 2018.

Here are a few of the noteworthy items, in no particular order and certainly not all inclusive:

- Upwards of 7 businesses opened both in the Downtown and on the East End of the community with several more actively in the process of opening.
- The sale of two existing long term businesses within the downtown to energized entrepreneurs.
- The construction of 3 buildings in the Industrial Park with 2 more beginning within the next month.
- The sale of 40 acres of land owned by the city that is now placed back on the tax rolls in the Industrial Park.
- The sale of the former Hospital Property on Sims Hwy to a developer and the sale of the Parker Property to Consumers Energy for a new Substation.
  - The City now is in a position where as all vacant city owned land has been either sold or is under sale option. Tremendous accomplishment!
- Capital Improvement Plan continuing to be a priority for councils focus.
  - EMS Facility Addition & Upgrade completed
  - New Water Line and Sanitary on the East end of the community
  - Road Maintenance – East Street North and Whitney Ave regrind and overlay
  - Waste water pumps, albeit a bit sooner than anticipated, upgrade & rebuild
- The addition of 1 Full-Time Police Officer and 1 Full-Time DPW Assistant Superintendent to the staff to continue to provide those public services at a level which the community expects.
- Construction of Hammontree Drive through industrial park. This will also serve as the detour for the East Main Street bridge replacement project taking place in 2019.
- Collaboration between the city and the schools to adopt and embrace "One Team, One Town, One Family"
  - This has also facilitated moving forward with new City Signage. City Entrance Signs, Park Signage, Industrial Signage, Street Signage along with Place Making Signage are all in process.

- Fiscal year-end audit ended with a significant increase in the General Fund balance. In the event of “Hard Times”, we are positioned exceptionally well to withstand the impact.
- Mayor, Council and Staff are actively working with State Representative Bronna Kahle to support and facilitate the passage of Senate Bill 40 which deals with economic development incentives for state line border communities.

It has been my pleasure to once again serve our community and to work alongside an engaged and forward thinking council. My thanks to all of the councilors and to the department leaders for their support. I also thank each of the city employees for their hard work and dedication to the community. A special thanks to the community for their continued support in my role as mayor and for their support of our council.

In closing, I look forward to seeing our City of Morenci continue to move forward as a strong community into 2019 and beyond. May God Bless each and every one of you and your family’s in 2019.

Kind Regards,

Jeffrey D. Bell  
Mayor, City of Morenci