

**MAYOR'S UPDATE  
FEBRUARY, 2013**

**Welcome to the Mayor's Update**

The Mayor's Update is an attempt, on a monthly basis, to better inform Orange City's citizens and others on the progress and activities occurring within the community. City Council decisions, retail and commercial development progress, business activities and other actions affecting the community are included in a brief and, hopefully, informative manner.

**2013 City Strategic Plan**

Each fall, City representatives, the City Council and the Chamber Director conduct a strategic planning session for the ensuing year. The 2013 strategic planning results were shared in the December, 2012, *Mayor's Update*. The following is the progress made in beginning to address the 2013 Strategic Plan:

- **Expand the present trail system and renovate the Dunlop Wildlife Area:**
  - The Orange City Council approved a proposal from Neppel Landscaping Architect, Ames, IA, to conduct a Master Plan for the Dunlop Wildlife Area, Roadside Park and connecting trails.
  - Representatives from the City of Orange City, the City of Alton, the Sioux County Supervisors and the DNR will be meeting in early February to begin the planning process with the completion date for the master plan set for April 10, 2013.
  - Opportunities for community input into the planning process will be provided as well.
  - A critical component of the trail expansion planning process, renovating the Dunlop Wildlife Area, and enhancing the Roadside Park will be the engagement of community members and organizations in Orange City & Alton to assist and support this endeavor.
  
- **Continue work towards a regional airport with Sioux County and Sioux Center:**
  - Land acquisition is the focus of the work at the present time with nearly half of the property already acquired.
  
- **Explore avenues to meet the enrollment needs of the Orange City Daycare facility:**
  - The Daycare Board has provided some tentative facility needs to the Orange City Council.
  - The additional planning that is now necessary includes:
    - ❖ Identifying specific facility needs and options
    - ❖ Developing preliminary cost estimates
    - ❖ Establishing initial funding plans
    - ❖ Setting tentative timelines

**2013 City Budget**

This past Monday, January 28, the City Council concluded two lengthy meetings of addressing the FY 2013-2014 City budget. The tax levy was set at \$14.44 compared to \$14.46 during the FY 2012-2013. The taxable valuations increased by approximately \$9.7 million due to the growth in residential taxable valuations in the increase of the rollback. The rollback increased from 50.752% to 52.82%

Once again, thank you, citizens of Orange City, for making our community a special place to live, work, worship, and play.

Les Douma  
Mayor, Orange City