



City of Pacific  
300 Hoven Drive  
Pacific, MO 63069



Official Newsletter of the City of Pacific

March, 2019

www.pacificmissouri.com

## Voters to decide City sales tax initiatives

Voters in the City of Pacific will have two half-cent sales tax initiatives before them on the April 2 ballot. "Prop S" seeks a half-cent sales tax for transportation purposes. "Prop P" seeks a half-cent sales tax for parks and stormwater purposes. Both taxes require a simple majority for approval.

If approved, the City will work toward repeal of the three existing 1-cent Community Improvement District sales taxes, meaning there would be no effective tax rate increase for businesses in the CIDs that are dissolved. Businesses not currently located in a CID would see an effective one percent increase in their sales tax rate.

The City of Pacific base sales tax rate is currently 8.475 percent, with the CID rate at 9.475 percent. Pacific's 8.475 percent base rate is currently the lowest in Franklin County. Of the total rate, the City now receives 1.5 percent, with other entities receiving a share as follows: State of Missouri, 4.225 percent; Franklin County, 2.25 percent; City of Pacific, 1.5 percent, Pacific CIDs, 1 percent, Meramec Ambulance District, .05 percent. A chart comparing local sales tax rates is elsewhere on this page.

If approved by voters, each half-cent sales tax would generate approximately \$400,000 annually. The "Prop S" transportation sales tax could be used for a range of purposes, including streets, roads, bridges, sidewalks and associated purposes, such as curbs and gutters and storm drains. The "Prop P" parks and stormwater sales tax could be used for various parks and recreation and storm water control purposes.

If approved, revenues from the tax would be subject to allocation by the Board of Aldermen. The Board at the March 5 meeting was unanimous in supporting a plan to conduct a professional planning study to evaluate and prioritize needs and projects to be funded, if the taxes are approved by voters.

### Q: Why are these taxes being proposed?

A: The City currently does not have dedicated sales tax revenue for either transportation or parks and recreation /

storm water purposes. If citizens want upgraded transportation infrastructure, upgraded parks and recreation facilities and programs and upgraded storm water control, it will take new revenues to fund these initiatives.

### Q: How much does a half-cent sales tax cost me?

A: A half-cent sales tax is equivalent to one-half of one percent (0.05%) on taxable purchases. A half-cent sales tax generates five cents on a \$10.00 purchase, or fifty cents on a \$100 purchase.

### Q: If approved, when would the taxes go into effect?

A: By Missouri law, the new taxes would go into effect in October, 2019.

More information is available at  
[www.pacificmissouri.com](http://www.pacificmissouri.com)

### Mark your calendars!

- April 2—Municipal Election
- April 5—Coffee with the Mayor, Little Ireland
- April 27—Community Clean-Up Day
- May 3—Coffee with the Mayor, Little Ireland
- Board of Aldermen meetings, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Planning and Zoning, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

### Get informed!

#### View meeting information, sign up for notifications through the new City website

The revamped City website is up and running, and citizens can sign up to receive notifications when certain new items are posted. For example, the full Board of Aldermen meeting packet is posted on the Friday before each meeting. Copies of proposed bills and resolutions, staff reports, and various other information is included in each packet. Citizens can view the packet online, and sign up to receive a notification when each new packet is posted. The City also posts Planning and Zoning Commission meeting packets, and agendas for other Boards and Commissions.

The City is in the process of uploading many other information items to the site, including annual Audited Financial Statements, budgets, planning documents, and much more. The goal is to provide public access to the City's documents and information in as thorough as a manner as possible. If you can't find the information you are looking for, please contact us as we will post it as readily as possible. Thank you.

[www.pacificmissouri.com](http://www.pacificmissouri.com)

### Did you know?

City of Pacific Public Works crews responded to snow / ice events on 13 separate days this winter, using 262 tons of salt and 300 tons of cinders, and logging nearly 300 overtime hours. The total cost of salt purchases alone was nearly \$24,000. The additional labor costs, fuel and other costs bring the total winter weather response cost to approximately \$40,000.

| Area Sales Tax comparisons  |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| City  | Base Sales Tax Rate |
| Fenton  | 8.113%              |
| Wildwood  | 8.113%              |
| <b>Pacific</b>  | <b>8.475%</b>       |
| Valley Park   | 8.613%              |
| Washington  | 8.850%              |
| Ellisville  | 8.863%              |
| Sullivan  | 8.975%              |
| Eureka  | 9.113%              |
| New Haven   | 9.225%              |
| St. Clair   | 9.475%              |
| Union   | 9.475%              |
| St. Louis City  | 9.679%              |
| * Base rate does not include CID sales taxes or other "overlay" sales taxes |                     |
| ** Source--Missouri Dept. of Revenue  |                     |

# Mayor Myers presents State of the City report

**City in sound financial shape; significant new growth and development noted over past year**

Mayor Steve Myers recently presented his 2019 State of the City report, first to the Pacific Area Chamber of Commerce and then to the Pacific Board of Aldermen.

The report provided an overview of the City's finances, recent projects accomplished and goals and objectives for the coming year. A copy of the full report is available on the City website, [www.pacificmissouri.com](http://www.pacificmissouri.com).

The reports shows that the City's finances are generally in good shape, with sales taxes showing an uptick in 2018 after two years of declines. The City's overall fund balances are also in good shape, with a modest increase (\$168,612, or approximately 3.8 percent) in FY 18. The City's total net position increased by approximately \$600,000, to \$27.8 million. **Probably most significantly, the City's S & P bond rating increased from A+ to AA-**. Copies of the City's recent Financial Statements can also be found on the City website.

The Mayor noted numerous accomplishments over the past year, including introduction of the new website, reinstatement of the quarterly newsletter, new "Coffee with the Mayor" monthly meeting, customer service training for City Hall

staff, new dog kennel facility, new street department trucks, Route 66 east waterline extension, Red Cedar grant award, Denton Road bridge replacement grant award, three rounds of flood buyout grants, reconstituted City boards and commissions, online bill pay and credit / debit card processing, Jensen Point park fence replacement, and others.

The report also noted significant new business growth and development, with numerous new projects taking occupancy in recent months, including **ADB Companies headquarters, First State Community Bank, Doris Hoffman Early Childhood Center, new Scenic Regional**

**Library location, and numerous small businesses.** Projects in the works for 2019 include the NB West Contracting office / maintenance building, Bend Ridge Estates Subdivision (Rich Gullet & Sons) and others.

The report closed with Goals and Objectives for the coming year, including the **Candlewick Lane project, Integram Drive storm sewer replacement, Lisa Lane extension project, fill City Hall staffing needs, continue progress on Red Cedar Welcome Center and Museum project, and many others.** Last but not least, the Mayor asked for support of the Prop S and Prop P sales tax initiatives, which would greatly improve the City's ability to fund needed streets, parks and storm sewer improvements.



**Mayor Steve Myers, left, and City Administrator Steve Roth, right, recently met with Senator Dave Schatz, Sullivan, who recently was named President Pro Tem of the Missouri Senate. The Pacific officials were in Jefferson City as part of the Missouri Municipal League's annual Legislative Conference.**

## Board says no to 'Better Together'

***If approved by voters, the St. Louis County side of Pacific would be "detached and annexed" into new Metro St. Louis government***

The Pacific Board of Aldermen has sent a clear signal in opposition to the "Better Together" initiative, which seeks a Missouri Constitutional amendment to effectively merge St. Louis City and County.

The Board of Aldermen was unanimous in supporting a Resolution to oppose the initiative, which would "detach and annex" the St. Louis County side of Pacific if approved by voters.

The Board took action after hearing a presentation from Mayor Steve Myers and from Pat Kelly, executive director of the Municipal League of Metropolitan St. Louis. Both men spoke at the Feb. 19 Board of Aldermen meeting.

The Municipal League has been leading the charge against "Better Together," calling it an end-run around the Missouri constitutional process that is currently in place. The Municipal League instead favors a procedure that is currently in the Missouri Constitution, which would create a Board of Freeholders which would be tasked with developing a plan for St. Louis City-County unification.

Pacific officials say Better Together would essentially cut Pacific in half. The language of the initiative would "detach and annex" the St. Louis County side of Pacific, making it part of the new Metropolitan St. Louis. Even basic services like snow-plowing would be provided by the new Metro government. The current Pacific police jurisdiction would end at the St. Louis County line, meaning police patrols would be expected to come out of the new Metropolitan City.

The Board of Aldermen Resolution opposing Better Together states, in part, that the Board "...affirms its opposition to a unification of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis which would eliminate local government and result in the reduction of services provided to the citizens and residents of Pacific."

Better Together supporters continue to target a November, 2020 statewide vote on the proposal.

### **NB West plans to build new facility on Rte 66**

The Pacific Board of Aldermen has given preliminary development plan approval to NB West Contracting for a new office and maintenance building at 18637 Route 66, east of the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center.

The company plans to relocate a St. Louis County facility to the site, and move other offices there. The project is contingent on an agreement to extend City water and sewer utilities to the site. The NB West asphalt plant off Thornton Road in Pacific will remain.

### **City applies for grant to improve Highway N**

The City of Pacific is seeking a \$1.071 million federal grant to widen a section of Highway N (Congress) in Pacific. The project limits run from Candlewick Lane north to Westlake subdivision.

The project calls for the roadway to be widened, with new curb and gutter and storm drains on the east side. Street lighting is also planned.

If approved, federal funding would pay 80 percent, with the City obligated for the \$214,392 match.

### **City approves agreement with Westlake Subdivision development group**

The Pacific Board of Aldermen has approved a development agreement with WL Development Partners LLC, paving the way for the further build out of Westlake Village subdivision.

The agreement calls for the remaining subdivision streets (Plat 4 and 5) to be constructed in 2019, with existing subdivision development funds to be released to the developer upon the completion of the street improvements. The City has been holding the subdivision funds for several years, after a prior developer failed to complete the project.

## Luke Myers receives Dispatcher of the Year award

Luke Myers is this year's recipient of the Pacific Police Department "Dispatcher of the Year" award. Luke has been with the department since November, 2017 and has since become one of the key members of the Communications Center staff. Police Chief Matt Mansell said Myers learned the job much more quickly than others. "Most Communications Officers have six months of training before they're left to handle a shift by themselves," Mansell said. "C.O. Myers was on shift in just over two months. "He has shown nothing but pure professionalism and



**Luke Myers, center,** is pictured receiving the Dispatcher of the Year award from Tracy Riegel, Communications Center Supervisor. Also pictured, from left is City Administrator Steve Roth, Police Lieutenant Amanda Meyer, and Chief Matt Mansell.

the utmost ability to do his job. Everything from phone etiquette, to the ability of obtaining information in a hectic situation, C.O. Myers proved in the short time he has been here that he can

handle it all. "C.O. Myers is a credit to the Pacific Police Department."

*Congratulations Luke!*

## Pacific brush, leaf and limb pick-up policy

The City of Pacific provides regular curbside pick-up of brush, limbs and leaves for City residents and businesses. **The pick-up is performed during the first full week of the month. Items set out for pick-up must be out by the first Monday of the month.**

The intent of this service is to provide for pick-up of brush and other yard waste generated as part of routine property maintenance and / or resulting from storms and other weather events. **The intent is not to provide a commercial tree or composting service.**

Brush and tree limbs must be cut in lengths of no more than six (6) feet, and must be no more than six (6) inches in diameter. Brush and limbs must be neatly stacked at the curb to facilitate easy pick-up by City personnel. Leaves must be contained in bags (paper only, please) and must also be stacked neatly at the

curb.

Large trees and branches more than six feet long or more than six inches in diameter will not be picked up. Items weighing 30 pounds or more also will not be picked up. The City at all times reserves the right to refuse to pick up brush, limbs or leaves that do not meet the above criteria.

Residents may also drop off brush, limbs and leaves at the Public Works Maintenance Building, 77 Cedar Field Drive, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

People may call 636-257-2163 to notify Public Works in advance if brush has been set out. Please be sure to leave an address with your message.

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

## City now offering online bill pay

### Also accepting credit / debit cards for payment at City Hall

City of Pacific water and sewer customers can now pay their bills online, thanks to a new service available on the City website. The online bill pay option gives customers the option to pay water and sewer utility bills at any time using the online portal. The City is also accepting credit cards and debit cards for payment at City Hall during regular business hours.

Customers should be aware that a "convenience fee" applies to electronic payments, whether they are done in person or on-line. The fee is 2.5% of the total transaction, with a minimum of \$1.95 for credit/debit cards. Customers also have an "eCheck" option (online payments only). The fee for eChecks is \$1.75 per transaction.

**Please Note:** If your water is shut off or you need immediate attention for water service please contact 636-271-0500 prior to making payment to ensure service is reinstated in a timely manner. If your water is shut off an additional \$25.00 fee is added to the bill.

The online bill pay option is available only for water and sewer customers at this time. The City plans to offer online pay options for most all services in the near future.

However, credit / debit card payments made in person at City Hall can be applied to almost all City services, including building permit applications, business licenses, park facility rentals, etc.

## Waste Connections asks for cooperation in City recycling efforts

Waste Connections is requesting resident assistance with the City's recycling program, asking that recyclables be kept "clean" and uncontaminated with other trash.

Waste Connections (WC) is the City's contracted residential waste hauler. The City and WC reached a new three-year agreement late last year, which continues the same recycling service which had been in place in the prior agreement.

However, WC representatives through the negotiation noted that the recycling market has changed drastically in recent months, and "clean" recycling is more important than ever. Recycling that is contaminated may be dumped as trash, under the new agreement. Resident cooperation in this effort is appreciated.

### URGENT RECYCLING INFORMATION

#### ONLY ITEMS ACCEPTED

- FLATTENED CARDBOARD
- PAPER
- CLEAN & DRY PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- CLEAN & DRY GLASS BOTTLES & JARS
- CLEAN & DRY METAL CANS

ANY OTHER ITEM NOT LISTED ABOVE WILL CONTAMINATE YOUR RECYCLING CART. THE CART WILL BE DUMPED AS TRASH.

## Community Clean-Up day is April 27!

The newly formed City of Pacific Beautification Committee has set Saturday, April 27 as Community Clean-Up Day in Pacific.

Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. at B & H Market and will be dispatched to various points in town to conduct litter pick-up and other clean-up activities. Trash bags, vests and other equipment will be provided. A gourmet hot dog lunch will be provided at noon for all volunteers!

The Beautification Committee has seven members and meets monthly at City Hall. More information will be posted on the City's website and / or Facebook page as the Clean-Up day nears.

## ADB Companies opens new headquarters here

ADB Companies took occupancy of their new headquarters facility in Pacific late last year, bringing some 500 new jobs to the Pacific area.

The new facility is located on an approximate 18-acre site located just west of the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center facility.

The project includes an approximate 32,000 square foot office building, and 20,000 square foot maintenance building. The remainder of the site is used for storage of the company's vehicles and equipment.

The project began in 2017 with voluntary annexation of the property into the City of Pacific. The City and ADB later reached agreement over extension of City water service to the site, which required construction of nearly a mile of water main.

## First State Community Bank moves into newly renovated location



First State Community Bank took occupancy of its newly remodeled Pacific location in early 2019. The approximate \$2.5 million project renovated the former Pacific Foods facility at 302 W. St. Louis into the new FSCB location, which includes a drive-through lane, ATM, and additional commercial office space.

The bank had been operating out of a "trailer-bank" facility at the property since early 2018. FSCB has more than 50 locations throughout the state of Missouri, with headquarters in Farmington. Al Baldwin is branch manager of the Pacific facility.



ADB broke ground on the buildings in early 2018, and was granted conditional occupancy in December. Final occupancy has since been approved.

The company in mid-2018 received City approval for an additional three-acre parcel to be added to the site.

ADB formerly was headquartered in Union, Mo. It also has an office in San Antonio, Texas. The company performs a wide array of underground utility construction services. The company's parent company, Keeley Companies, is headquartered in St. Louis.



**ADB Companies took occupancy of the approximate \$15 million headquarters facility in December.** Mayor Steve Myers was asked to speak at the company Christmas party, held in part to celebrate the opening of the new facility. ADB Companies officials have been complimentary of the City's handling of the project, one of the largest new projects in Pacific in several years.

## Jensen Point fencing, handrail, stone work completed

### Project funded by St. Louis Municipal Park Grant Commission

New fencing and other improvements at Jensen Point park recently were completed by City crews, working in conjunction with a volunteer artisan.

Harry Engelhart volunteered his time to fabricate the wrought iron fencing, which replaces the chain link fencing at the park. The fencing includes a new gate entrance, and also includes protective fencing at the overlook location.

The project was funded by a \$65,421 grant from the St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant Commission. The wrought iron fence materials were paid for through the grant, with Engelhart donating his time to build it. City crews constructed the fence at the park site, with assistance from Engelhart.

Other elements of the project included construction of a pedestrian handrail along the walkway to the



**The new wrought iron fence** at Jensen Point park was built by Harry Engelhart, who donated his time to fabricate the fence sections. The fence was constructed by City crews over the winter 2018-19, with assistance from Mr. Engelhart.

overlook, and repairs to the stone structure at the overlook. That work was completed earlier in 2018 by two contractors hired by the City, Empire Fence and Superior Waterproofing & Restoration.

### Code Enforcement corner

## High grass and weeds, derelict vehicles to be focus this spring

Complaints over high grass and weeds is typically one of the hot topics for City code enforcement staff in the spring. Residents and businesses are reminded that weeds over seven (7) inches high are considered a nuisance and are subject to enforcement action by the City.

The City typically tries to first resolve issues informally, by making direct contact with the property owner or agent by phone or in person if possible. A 10-day notice is sent, advising the owner / agent that they have 10 days to remedy the problem or else face abatement action. If after 10 days the issue still is not resolved, the City may abate the nuisance (ie cut the grass or weeds) through its contracted grass mowing service. The costs of such cutting are then assessed as a lien against the property.

Code enforcement also intends to ramp up efforts on derelict vehicles this spring. The City typically sends 10-day notices on derelict vehicles, and if the issue isn't resolved a court summons will be issued. The court summons is often a last resort, if the property owner / agent is non-responsive. People who are making a good faith effort to remedy the issue may be given additional time to comply. As with any issue, property owner cooperation is key.

The City's intent is not to collect fines for violations, but to simply see that issues are remedied in a timely fashion. For more information, or to report an issue, please contact Gary Watson, code enf. officer, 636-271-0500 ext 196.