



# News from America's Real Hometown

City of Cassville  
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## City of Cassville—2019 Major Project Accomplishments

### Transportation

*Street resurfacing completed in 2019 represented the second year of a three-year resurfacing plan.* The three-year plan was based on a 2017 evaluation of all local streets and prioritized resurfacing to address streets that were judged to be in the worst condition. There were 1.93 miles of roads resurfaced in 2018 and 2.42 miles in 2019. Another two miles are expected to be paved in 2020, however many of the streets remaining on the plan will be heavily impacted by the reconstruction of the City's water and sewer system.

*Update on 7<sup>th</sup> Street low water crossing on Flat Creek:* The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a flood damage claim to rebuild the 7<sup>th</sup> Street crossing exactly as it had previously existed. Cassville requested a larger federal and state cost share due to Corp of Engineer requirements governing the amount of flow that must pass under such structures. FEMA has indicated they are likely to deny any change in the original claim amount, but suggested other federal programs might be available. As a result, the City is now pursuing federal mitigation funds that would build a structure that would not be so easily overtopped and much less susceptible to flood damage. Engineering analysis has shown a larger structure would not adversely affect flooding levels during large rain

events. A decision from FEMA is expected by the end of February, 2020. If funding for a larger structure is not available, the City will either build a structure similar to the old one or improve/build a different entranceway into the Downtown Park.

*Last winter introduced the use of a 50/50 mix of salt and manufactured sand for snow and ice control on local roadways.* This was a marked change from using coal cinders mixed with minimal amounts of bagged salt. The change was made possible by constructing storage bins that allow bulk purchase and delivery of salt mined in eastern Kansas. A bulk purchase and delivery of 25 tons of mined salt is less than one half the cost of bagged salt. During a typical snow event three to five tons of traction aid is used to treat city streets.

### Cassville Municipal Airport

*Substantial improvements were made at the municipal airport during 2019 with the construction of a new 24-hour self-service aviation fuel facility featuring a 12,000-gallon tank.* The larger tank promotes better prices for supply/delivery and will result in a lower pump price for pilots. The fuel system upgrade used a 90% federal grant administered by the Missouri Department of Transportation. This year also saw renovations at several City owned hangars. The renovations resulted in several new tenants and the total number of locally

based aircraft at the Cassville Municipal Airport increased to 17.



*Setting the new tank at the Cassville Municipal Airport*

### Water and Sewer Rehabilitation

*Progress on engineering design and specifications for the City's water and wastewater system rehabilitation projects was slow but steady this past year.* On the wastewater side, a contractor crew used a closed circuit camera system to inspect almost two miles of sewer main. Engineers used this information along with several miles of CCTV inspection videos completed by City staff to determine where and what kind of improvements were needed. The project is expected to consolidate pipes in locations where there are multiple existing mains under the same street. For the proposed water system improvements where 25% of the piping is expected to be replaced, engi-

# 2019 Major Project Accomplishments continued from page 1

neers have completed preliminary alignments for the new piping. Both projects will need new temporary and permanent easements and staff is presently completing property owner research and preparing negotiation and conveyance documents. The start of construction for both projects is expected to occur next year.

## Parks

*In the first four months of the year the Aquatic Center received numerous renovations.* The pool's chlorine disinfection system was replaced and all the changing/shower rooms were updated with new lighting and re-painted doors and floors. New features were also added: a large floating pool mat and a 24' x 26' shade structure that features picnic tables and a barbeque grill.

*Plans and property acquisition initiated in 2018 were finalized when Baseball Field #2 was relocated from its flood prone spot in the Downtown Park.* While the sod in the new field was not quite up to standard for the spring baseball season it is sure improve with each year. Much appreciation was earned by Barry Electric Cooperative for the considerable time and effort they spent constructing the lighting at the new field.



## Stormwater

*During the summer of 2019 the City partnered with the Cassville School District to construct storm sewer improvements on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.* The new storm drain will

allow elementary school children and other patrons to use the crosswalk in rainy weather without having to wade through ankle deep storm water runoff.

*In September, a flood damage reduction project was completed near the Regal manufacturing plant.* The project lowered base flood elevations on both sides of Flat Creek by improving over bank carrying capacity. The strategic removal of over 5,400 cubic yards of material is predicted to produce a one foot drop in the local 100-year base flood elevation. The prime contractor for the project was Barry County Ready Mix and the project used funds generated by the City's ½ cent Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax.

*Late in 2019 it was announced that Cassville had been selected to participate in a federal cost share program that will study large scale flood damage reduction.* The selection to participate is a result of the City Administrator's lobbying efforts over the last two years. Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act authorizes the United States Army Corps of Engineers to study, design, and construct flood control projects in partnership with non-Federal government agencies, such as cities and counties. Each project must be economically justified, environmentally sound, and technically feasible. The first phase of the program is an in-depth planning effort which the federal government paying 100 percent of costs up to \$100,000 and all costs over that amount shared 50/50 with the local partner. If the program advances to the second stage, final design plans and construction costs are 65 percent Federal/35 percent non-Federal.

## Economic Development's First Year with an eye toward the City's Future

As a new decade begins with 2020 it is worth reflecting on 2019. In January of 2019 the City of Cassville initiated a new department and hired me, Isaac Petersen, to the position of Economic Development Director here at City Hall. This initiative stemmed from a collective group of community leaders, the industrial development corporation, the chamber of commerce and city leadership chartered by the Cassville School District leadership. The intent and focus was simply, to work and partner with both existing businesses and to attract new businesses to our community. In order to begin we needed to develop a relationship with several different agencies as well as the business sectors.

These agencies include national and state organizations as well as regional groups.

At the national level we work

National	EDA	USDA	SBA
State	DED	MEDC	SBDC
Regional	MOPAR	SMCOG	SREP

with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

- The EDA falls under the Department of Commerce with the role of making regional economies resilient and durable to compete in the global economy. They can make loans and grants that support economic growth and disaster

## 2019 Major Project Accomplishments continued from page 2

recovery.

- The SBA is the only cabinet-level organization completely focused on small businesses. The SBA can help with access to capital, advise companies on applying for government contracts and has programs dedicated to veteran owned, women owned and minority owned businesses.
- The USDA has programs to help the manufacturing and agriculture industries. The REDLG (Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant) program, for example.

At the state level we partner with the Department of Economic Development (DED), Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC), and Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

- The DED reorganized in 2019 to have regional representatives in our area. In addition to annual meetings, our regional partner has coordinated a smaller group meeting focused on rural communities and our issues and opportunities. The DED oversees a number of state programs designed to encourage investment in rural areas.
- We are members of MEDC which facilitates education and networking, mentoring and communication among Economic Development Organizations across the region.
- Missouri State University houses the SBDC (Small Business Development Center) which can work with entrepreneurs and startups to perform market research and analysis, help develop business plans

and understand capital investment and managing cash flow.

At the regional level we work with the Missouri Partnership (MOPAR) and the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) and have been members of the Springfield Regional Economic Partnership (SREP).

- MOPAR seeks to develop prospects from around the country and globe. They share those leads with regional partners like SREP (Springfield Regional Economic Partnership) as well as Electrical Cooperatives.
- SMCOG offers technical and advisory services for the betterment of communities in our region. SMCOG can help with grant writing, sharing information among communities, and building awareness of changes in legislation and funding opportunities.
- We have been members of SREP which works to leverage the region at large to attract businesses from outside of the state.

### What's been accomplished in year 1?

In the industrial base, WinTech, Inc., manufactures windows, louvers, access doors and panels, set up a production line in Cassville which brought 20 jobs. They are on track to install a second production line in 2020 and are currently hiring for 8 to 10 additional positions. Further, the company has plans to produce glass in the Cassville facility in the future creating additional jobs.

The next two projects represent organic growth of existing Cass-

ville area businesses. In order to facilitate this both projects are applying for capital dollars through a USDA loan program called Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG). This program is in place to aid manufacturers with low-cost loans in communities with population below 50,000.

House Handle Company has realized steady growth. That growth has increased the need for additional production space and warehousing. The company has started the application process for a REDLG loan. The capital will be used for a new building on the same property where they do business today. That capital will be used to set up production equipment and warehouse space. It is anticipated that the project will enable growth, strengthen the company and create 4 new positions.

Arning has a very exciting opportunity to grow with their existing customers by offering a new product line. This opportunity necessitates adding onto the existing building, new equipment and software. The project is estimated to create 20 new positions.

Cornerstone Bank, headquartered in Eureka Springs, AR, has acquired two properties in our community. The first was the property across the street from Les Jacobs Ford and the other more recent purchase was the Dodge Dealership on Highway 37. Construction will commence at that location in 2020. They plan build a permanent bank and some additional facilities that could become home for a restaurant or retail store.



# Cassville Police Department keeping sharp with today's evolving situation's

## Cassville Police Department keeping sharp with today's evolving situation's

The Cassville Police Department has purchased a MILO Range system to help with a variety of training.

What is MILO?

MILO, Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives, is a training interactive exercise video that shows how and when law enforcement officers should use a particular way to handle different types of situations.

MILO Range is not limited to simple police firearms training. This training tool offers a way for our Police Department to engage from Active Shooter Training to practicing less-lethal police tools like Baton, Taser, or Pepper Spray training. It also offers critical incident response, situational awareness, community policing, judgment skills, active listening, operational strategy, and most importantly de-escalation training.

MILO Range has set the international standard for interactive use of force, tactical judgment training, and firearms training systems. It provides all officers with fully interactive video scenarios and graphics-based firearms drills via a projector and computer operated by an instructor. Officers enter the training situation (which can range from domestic assaults and mentally ill citizens to active shooters and traffic stops) and must use verbal commands to interact with the subject. The instructor can then deescalate or escalate the situation, sometimes forcing the officer into having to react with training pistols and less-lethal devices.

This is a way to train our officers to see how to respond to their actions. Our system supports multiple trainees with multiple weapons. Skill-focused modes include real-time shot feedback and analysis, both static and moving targets, and over 60 exercises. High Definition video scenarios offer full interaction decisions and tools for after-action decision analysis and replay. This provides each officer with instant feedback on how they performed in each scenario. The MILO system we use has firearm recoil kits, live-fire/laser options, shoot back systems, and more.

MILO Range solutions go beyond the simulation. The real value in this integrated, immersive use-of-force training solution creates to pinpoint exactly where each officer is succeeding as well as needing improvement. As a result, the tactical training that the officer receives in a MILO Range simulator will translate to real life situations that they may interact with on any shift.



# A Message from the City Administrator's Office

## The 2020 Budget

It is with great honor and privilege that I provide you with a budget message for the 2020 Operating and Capital Budget for the City of Cassville. The 2020 budget serves as a useful plan to administrate the resources enabling us to affect lasting and positive change in the community while remaining fiscally responsible. It could easily be said that the City Budget is the most important policy that the City Council must adopt each year. The budget is the plan for the next year that defines the level of services and projects that we provide our community. We began the development of the 2020 Budget with the goal of creating a budget that moves to make Cassville "America's Real Hometown", while also being financially responsible and prudent. In doing so, we focus on the impact of the services that our City government provides to the residents and guests of the community. As City Officials, we not only need to be fiscally responsible, but we must also think in conjunction with the numbers and consider the value and quality of the services we deliver and how that resonates with the public we serve. This 2020 budget was developed with the goal of maximizing the services that residents of the City of Cassville expect with the aim of making improvements while remaining fiscally responsible.

Here are just a few of the major projects in store for 2020:

- Completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of our Transportation Street Resurfacing Strategic Plan.
- Construction begins on the Water Line and Sewer Collection Line Rehabilitation.
- Continued Stormwater improvements.
- Construction of a new City Park Bathroom.
- Aquatic Center Pool Restoration.
- Economic Development initiatives with both local and new business.
- Additional Housing Projects working with developers.

Once again I would like to share my appreciation to our Mayor and City Council for their vision and direction through this year's budget process and all the hard work of our Department Heads and staff. We have a clear plan of maintaining fiscal strength and stability. This budget will enable the City of Cassville to continue its quality of life as a thriving and safe community that cherishes its location, unites in its diversity and evolves to meet the continuous challenges that success brings.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Steve Walensky  
City Administrator

## OUR VISION:

To make the City of Cassville a hub for living, working and playing in America's real hometown.

## OUR MISSION:

The City of Cassville is committed to ensuring a safe, beautiful, thriving community for residents, visitors and businesses, creating strong futures built from rich histories.

## OUR CORE VALUES:

- \*Customer Service
- \*Excellence and Learning
- \*Togetherness
- \*Integrity
- \*Respect
- \*Innovation
- \*Stewardship

## OUR GOALS:

To build and maintain a strong foundation while delivering, improving and expanding City services,

To make Cassville a destination for visitors to experience the beauty of the Ozarks while making memories for a lifetime,

To support, grow and create opportunities for economic growth while maximizing our technology and networking advantage

### Mayor:

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### City Administrator:

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### City Clerk/Finance Officer:

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# Congratulations 2019 Employees of the Year



*Public Works—Caleb Antle*



*Police Department—Justin Dunivant*



*Administration—Isaac Petersen*



*City of Cassville Overall—Stuart Lombard*

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