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Prior Lake Mayor Jack G. Haugen Announces He Will Not Run For Reelection in November

Jack G. Haugen, Prior Lake Mayor since Jan. 1, 2001, announced today that he will not seek reelection for a third term this November.

"I want to thank all of the citizens for their support and their active involvement in making the past eight years possible. This has not been an easy decision for me as I have truly enjoyed and will sorely miss my role as mayor of this wonderful community," he said.

"I promised the citizen's that we would create a long-term vision to guide the city into its future. With the involvement from several hundred citizens over the past seven years, we now have an effective 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan guiding us into the future. As part of that plan, we emphasize fiscal responsibility, the preservation of natural resources, infrastructure development, and developing badly needed partnerships and relationships.

"Prior Lake's focus has been so sharp because our public has already made its opinion's about our future known through the strategic plan updating meetings; as a result, we could focus on how to implement our plan with the greatest quality, permanence and cost effectiveness."

During Mayor Haugen's tenure, the city constructed a new city hall, police station, fire station and water treatment facility; at the same time, city taxes for the average household rose less than the amount of inflation while the city's bond rating was upgraded twice by Moody's Investment Services.

Mayor Haugen also played a key role in improving the relationship between the city and key partners such as the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), ISD 719, Scott County and the various members of the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE).

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On top of Mayor Haugen's list of accomplishments is the important personal relationship forged with SMSC Chair Stanley Crooks and Tribal Council Members Glynn Crooks and Keith Anderson. "We have accomplished so much for our community through our relationship with the SMSC," he added. "They have been a generous partner providing \$450,000 so that our kids could have lights at Ryan Park and in excess of \$10 million to build the Dakotah! Ice Center, which is an asset that will benefit youth in the Prior Lake community in a wide variety of sports for years to come. And this is only a fraction of the contributions they have made to the betterment of our city and its citizens."

From a development perspective, Mayor Haugen said he was most gratified by the quality development characterized by Jeffers Waterfront and Shepherd's Path, adding that Jeffers Waterfront saved a very high percentage of the existing trees. "In excess of 200 acres was preserved in perpetuity for public use as trails and natural preserves while Shepherd's Path brought a beautiful sanctuary, senior housing and a YMCA to Prior Lake," he said.

Mayor Haugen stated he is also proud of the Orderly Annexation Agreement with Spring Lake Township that will allow more than 3,000 acres from the township to become part of the City of Prior Lake by the year 2024. "This could not have been done without the strong relationship that was fostered between city officials and Spring Lake Township supervisors," he said.

"I have been blessed with terrific city councils. It is hard to believe I have served with 11 different city councilors. Each of them has had an abiding commitment to the community and to our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan," Mayor Haugen stated.

"I wish to thank my wife Mary and our sons, Kyle and Andy, for their untiring support and counsel during my mayoral tenure. Thanks also to our city staff members who have confirmed time and again that they give the highest level of commitment and effort for the citizens of Prior Lake. We are all very lucky to have such a dedicated and professional staff," Mayor Haugen added.

"After eight years it is time for a change. I have done my best and now it is time for new leadership. Perhaps you might call it my commitment to term limits. But, who knows exactly where my future might be," he said.

Mayor Haugen said his focus will return to his insurance and financial services business that he has been involved in for nearly 35 years.