



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

June 25, 2008

A Message from the Mayor

A Strong Foundation To Face Our Future

Many in this generation of dedicated Prior Lake residents have played a significant role in making a stronger, healthier and safer City for our children and grandchildren. I'm talking about the residents, business owners, community leaders and government officials who have taken part in the Long-range Planning Committee that helped produce and keep relevant our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan which called for a new Water Treatment Facility, and those who voted to approve the 2006 Fire Station and Aerial Platform Fire Truck referendum.

As a City, we stand on their shoulders - and because we do, we are standing taller and stronger than ever. We should be proud of what we are achieving together, not just with the opening of Fire Station No. 2 in northwest Prior Lake and the near completion of the Water Treatment Facility in the southeast, but with all our many recent accomplishments.

We know that unless we considered the full range of challenges to our City's physical environment, the progress we make to ensure our City's long-term future and wonderful quality of life is at risk.

The new fire station and water treatment facility are tomorrow's infrastructure improvements today. They will benefit the entire City for decades to come.

Fire Station and Water Treatment Facility

While the fire department has continued to deliver outstanding service levels, the opening of Fire Station No. 2 will be a new tool in protecting the life and property of the citizens of our growing community. The station is expected to reduce response times for fire and rescue to three to five minutes in north and west Prior Lake, matching response times for the rest of the City. And all of this excellent fire and rescue service, including the cost of two fire stations, is delivered for a total capital and operating cost of less than 46 cents per household per day.

Access to healthy drinking water is also a prerequisite to a high quality of life. The public health relies heavily upon fresh germ-free domestic water. All residents of Prior Lake today and tomorrow will be able to continue to enjoy the benefits of reliable, clean water thanks to the building of our new Water Treatment Facility. This infrastructure improvement is scheduled for completion in January 2009.

Partners in Progress

Together we have taken on many challenges, achieved many important goals, and made Prior Lake a safer and healthier community for years to come. And while it may be time to take a breath, we can not stop.

I believe there are three major challenges over the next 20 plus years:

1. We will be getting bigger. By 2030, projections show that our City will add nearly 18,000 people and 2,500 acres.
2. Our infrastructure will need to grow accordingly.
3. This growth – while bringing incredible benefits – will also put strains on our parks, roadways, buildings and emergency services.

Doing nothing has economic costs that only escalate with time. Refusing to saddle our children with these high costs is the essence of our responsibility as a community. The discipline we've shown and the investments we've made so far have given us a strong foundation to face our future, but tomorrow will present new challenges.

To address these challenges, the Long-range Planning Committee will be meeting again around the beginning of the year to update the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. When that time arrives and we do come together, we will need you. The really creative solutions to problems are especially likely to come from the people who stand to benefit the most: you, me and our children. We want to hear all of your voices. It is our city. It is our future.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jack Haugen