



Dear Council Members, Planning Commissioners, City Staff and Community,

As we look back on 2016, it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the organizational accomplishments of the past year, including the admirable public safety and operational services provided by the City's personnel. The City of Nevada City is stronger as a result of the City Council's leadership, hard work of City staff and our Planning Commissioners, and our community's tremendous support. This **2016 Year in Review** highlights many of these accomplishments.

### Continued Improvement of City Finances

In keeping with the City Council's goal to improve fiscal stability and sustainability, the City's General Fund has maintained an improving economic financial position for the fifth consecutive year. The City closed 2015/16 with an unassigned General Fund balance of \$591,007 and reserves equal to \$977,205, including \$232,500 in operational reserves and \$70,000 in pension reserves. While Measure L continues to significantly contribute to the City's improving fiscal picture, it's important to recognize the City Council and City staff's disciplined fiscal stewardship has also been instrumental in improving the City's financial position.

### City Infrastructure Investments

The City was again hard at work in 2016 improving the City's infrastructure. In addition to investing more than \$880,000 in Measure S street paving, the City completed several sidewalk improvements on downtown streets in coordination with PG&E improving the safety and appearance of our commercial core.

The City is nearing completing of its strategic planning effort to prioritize water and wastewater capital improvement projects for the City's aging water and wastewater systems. This condition assessment will help the City secure grant resources to offset improvement costs.

Other infrastructure projects completed include:

- Beckman Lane water & sewer improvements
- Grove Street sewer line improvements
- New gas/reclaimed water lines at the City's wastewater treatment plant
- Grant-funded water meters for City-owned property

### Successful Ballot Measures

In June 2016, citizens overwhelmingly approved **Measure X** (with 81.2% voter support), a proposal to simplify the City's Business License Tax methodology. This will enable the City to provide convenient, customer-friendly online payment options, reduce administrative processing, and keep business tax rates competitively low.

Nevada City voters enthusiastically supported the passage of **Measure C** (with 82.4% voter support), a 3/8 public safety tax. This measure provides a sustainable revenue source to ensure the City's formerly co-staffed Fire Station 54 will remain open as well as provide funding for one additional Police Officer.

## Launch of New Website

The City unveiled a new website in early 2016 and received many compliments about its improved look, ease of navigation and additional citizen services. City staff also appreciate the website's user-friendly content management system.

## Daily Contributions of City Staff

- Kudos to our Police, Fire, Public Works and Water/Wastewater personnel who provide exceptional service to our community in the field and resolve challenges on a daily basis. Their contributions are essential to ensuring the public's safety and quality of life is maintained. It is not surprising to find them working in difficult conditions, on holidays, and in the middle of the night on behalf of our citizens.
- Kudos to our City Hall office staff (Administration/Finance, Parks & Recreation, Planning, Engineering, Police, Contract City Attorney) who provide service to the City Council, Planning Commission, and community. Our team completes a remarkable amount of work each year assisting with customer issues, providing accounting, planning, engineering, recreational programming, human resources, risk management activities/services, and more!

## Other Notable 2016 Achievements

The City Council and staff provided leadership on a number of other issues throughout 2016. Several notable achievements and community highlights are summarized below:

- The Police Department's Community Connect program's "Cup with a Cop" series continues to enjoy a faithful following at local coffee shops and has expanded into a regional effort with the City's local law enforcement partners including the City of Grass Valley, Nevada County Sheriff and California Highway Patrol.
- The City Police Department joined communities nationwide and organized a "National Night Out" event August 2<sup>nd</sup> for the second consecutive year.
- The City conducted a community survey in summer 2016 that provided helpful citizen feedback on a variety of City issues including quality of life, safety, City services and amenities, community events, and business.
- Approved implementation of the HERO, PACE and mPOWER Placer programs to provide fixed-rate financing for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and multi-family property owners seeking to invest in energy efficiency, water conservation retrofits and renewable energy systems.
- The City welcomed the 70-unit InnTown Campground in July ([www.inntowncampground.com](http://www.inntowncampground.com)). The campground offers traditional camping, as well as RV and glamping tent sites.
- The City completed a compensation study and successfully negotiated two-year successor labor agreements with its employee bargaining units.

- The City adopted ordinances to:
  - Limit formula chain stores in Nevada City;
  - Establish a cap on the number of tobacco retail licenses permitted;
  - Expand the definition of tobacco to include electronic smoking devices and vaping products, and to require a minimum pack size for cigars to discourage smoking among youth;
  - Establish regulations governing online home-sharing activities; and
  - Establish a Hotel Investment Incentive Program to encourage renovations that will improve the community's guest lodging amenities and increase City hotel tax revenues.
  
- Accelerated launch of the Nevada City-based GreenScreen Institute which has filled up a vacant 26,000 square foot commercial building with the Nevada County Economic Resource Council, NCTV and three technology companies/20 jobs.
  
- Welcomed three new Council Members, three new Planning Commissioners and established new three-year organizational goals.
  
- Approved a Sugarloaf Mountain Master Plan to provide guidelines and policies to continue the stewardship and preservation of the property for future generations.
  
- Partnered with Sierra Roots to periodically open an emergency Cold Weather Shelter to aid the community's most vulnerable during extreme weather.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities 2017 will bring!

*Mark T. Prestwich*

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**City Manager**