

Officials foresee bright future for city

City officials are pointing to a surge in the sale of municipally-owned property as an indicator of a vibrant economic future for Swift Current.

In the past 12 months, about 24 parcels of land and property have been purchased from the City of Swift Current.

Among the deals were 10 in the Westmount/Highway Commercial District with firm offers on the last three remaining parcels there, five sales in the downtown core, three in McIntyre Industrial Park, two in Paterson Industrial Park and the last available lot in Sidney Light Industrial Park.

"It's fantastic, the activity that's happening within our city. I can't believe the amount of land sales that we've made... You know, we're getting down to the nitty-gritty of how much property we have left to sell," said Mayor Sandy Larson, following Monday's City Council meeting.

City Councilors approved the sale of four properties at the meeting, including three that were acquired due to unpaid taxes.

Swift Current's Chief Administrative Officer Matt Noble pointed to the sale of a vacant lot at 225 First Ave. N.W. as an example of the level of interest from non-residents to set up business here.

Of the three bids submitted for the property, the successful one came from TDL Group Corp. (Tim Hortons), which offered \$25,100. The next highest bid was \$3,000.

It's very gratifying to see that people from outside the community come in, do their homework and say these properties have extreme value to them. It's more than what we've seen in the past," Noble said.

Larson, who expressed optimism the farm economy will improve, cited the city's tax incentive program for new and expanding existing businesses, activity in the oil and gas sector and the quality of life

offered by the community as contributing factors for the increase in sales.

Noble noted interest in municipal property is not limited to certain areas of the city, but widespread.

"The economic outlook just doesn't get much brighter than this."

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