

# JACKSON



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mar. 5, 2018

## CITY TO REBUILD ITS WEBSITE FREE OF CHARGE, LOOKING TO GARNER CITIZEN INPUT

JACKSON, MI - City of Jackson employees will work to redesign the City's website in the coming months after officials closely reviewed their contract with the site host CivicPlus, and found a surprising stipulation buried inside.

"Upon reviewing the contract with CivicPlus we found that we had the option to rebuild our website from the ground up at no cost, since we've been under contract for four years this month," Public Information Officer Will Forgrave said. "Just like we did four years ago, we'll look to increase the site's functionality and offer easy, user-friendly services online. Only this time, it will come free of charge and at no taxpayer expense, which is excellent news."

The current website, located online at [www.cityofjackson.org](http://www.cityofjackson.org), was last redesigned in 2014 after City Council voted unanimously to contract with CivicPlus for three years. The total cost for three years of implementation, maintenance and upgrades came to roughly \$45,000.

"We've been very happy with CivicPlus as a host," Forgrave said. "They're helpful when we need help, and the site is easy to navigate and update from the administrative side."

Forgrave said the ultimate goal is to build a site with updated graphics and services citizens can easily find and use.

"It's about making the user-side of the site more accessible and functional," he said.

Those interested in sharing their ideas for updates to the City's website, can send an email to [website@cityofjackson.org](mailto:website@cityofjackson.org).

Officials are scheduled to begin working with CivicPlus to update the website this month, with a final product likely taking 9-12 months to complete.

"Anyone is welcome to email their tips and ideas," Forgrave said.

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Email Will Forgrave at [wforgrave@cityofjackson.org](mailto:wforgrave@cityofjackson.org) or call him at (517) 316-5750 for additional information.

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