

## State of the City Address—2017

Ladies and Gentleman of the Centerton City Council, and fellow citizens as your Mayor I am honored to report to you the state of the city and its future needs. I am grateful for the opportunity that the citizens have given me to serve the citizens of the City of Centerton over the past 6 years. First of all I am happy to announce that the City of Centerton is financially sound, and thru fiscal conservation, your staff and City Council has balanced its budget over the past 6 years. The 2016 financial statement will be presented tonight and you will see that we are in a good financial condition.

First of all I would like to report on multiple road projects going on in and around our city, first of all the city has received a grant for intersection improvements at Highway 102B (Main Street) and Seba Road and the first part of the grant is underway. When completed the intersection will have turn lanes, crosswalks and sidewalks. Also improvements are underway and almost complete at South Main Street and Fish Hatchery Road. The city crews have also prepared right of way to complete road improvements on Buckhorn Flats Road to link to the Quail Hollow subdivision. The city has also received a grant for over \$300,000 to install sidewalks on Gamble Road to connect Seba Road to Bliss Street, and then Bliss Street east to Main Street. The street department also bought a sweeper truck last year and have utilized this in keeping our streets clean.

Our Planning department has been very busy with several projects to include over a dozen new subdivisions coming into the area, since the New Bentonville West High School opened. Also the planning department has seen several rezone applications for residential and commercial zoning. A new 335 unit multifamily complex is starting this year near Highway 102 and Greenhouse, along with several other commercial projects to include Centerton Plaza. The Centerton Nursing home project has been working hard to complete and should be open this summer and will add over 100 jobs to the community. The Wal mart property located at highway 102 and Main Street is nearing major dirt work to relocate the creek on the property, but no other plans have been announced for the property at this time.

Several projects that were completed in 2016 include Bentonville West High School, Mitchael LSD, Greenhouse Retail Center, McCord Dental Clinic, Ravington Events Center, and Aspen Storage Addition.

Centerton has seen a huge impact on building in our city with a total of over 9000 inspections 2016, with a total of over \$500,000 in building permit fees for the year, this is one of the biggest years we have seen, and with the additional of additional subdivisions we will see an increase in

inspections this coming year. The building inspection department implemented an email notification system this year which allows builders to email for inspections and allows staff to let them know at the end of the inspection if it passed or failed and why it failed so the builder or contractor can correct this. Also the department added online inspections starting this year, where the contractor can simply enter an inspection utilizing the internet and when the inspection is complete they will get a notification if they passed or failed.

Code Enforcement has been busy as he has also taken on the duties of MS4 compliance and has attended multiple training courses in 2016 to help with his duties. Also a door hanging program has been implemented in 2016, so if the officer goes to a residence and they are not home he can simply leave a violation notice which helps with the time it takes to get the violation taken care of, and also saves money in postage costs.

The Police department had over 8000 calls for service and wrote over 1900 reports. Staffing has been increased over the past years and the current staff is 21 full time officers and 2 part time officers and 2 auxiliary officers or a total of 25 officers. The city will be looking to add an additional officer this year to serve as a School Resource Officer if approved by the school board to help with the increase of students. The current police fleet is up to date. Despite a steady increase of calls for service, there has been no notable increase in serious crimes, and there have been no trends in criminal activity in our community that should be cause for our community. The court had seen an increase in cases and has added a 3<sup>rd</sup> clerk on staff, and has also been assisting with the Little Flock court as they train new personal. The court has been asked to consolidate with Little Flock, and if a new court facility is built the city can visit that option at that time.

Other parks project to be completed this year is the Kinyon Sports Complex first phase, which will include one competition ball field and 3 practice fields, and should be open in the summer of this year. The city has been installing signage at some of our parks this year and also working to secure a grant to install a splash pad at the McKissic Park. Coffelt Park was damaged during 2016 when a tornado came thru the community, and work is being done to replace and improve the park. The city also accepted about 9 acres of land at the Morningside subdivision to add a new park to include trails. Back to McKissic Park, the city did add lighting and electricity to the park and pavilion area to be used by the community. A grant was received to install a new restroom at the main park, which is now up and running and seems to be working well, the facility is locked after hours.

The Centerton Fire Department responded to over 950 calls for service in 2016, which is a 23 percent increase from the previous year and as the transition to becoming a full time fire department takes place we currently have 12 full time firefighters, 5 part time firefighters, and

also 30 volunteers. The department has been working hard on training and has applied for a STEP grant to be able to add additional firefighters on at a later time.

The Centerton Water and Sewer Department also had a good year is currently sending the majority of our waste water to City of Decatur and the project is complete and hopefully this will help stabilize our treatment costs in the future.

Centerton Animal control had a great year in adoptions and returning missing pets to their owners by the use of Face Book and Pet Finder and to also help adopt pets that were not claimed. The normal population thru these efforts keeps this low The shelter has taken over 300 dogs last year and was able to find the owners of the majority of them, and adopt the rest, the shelter is now staffed to be able to stay open 6 days a week for the public, and able to respond to calls after hours if needed.

Lastly, no administration is complete without the support of the Centerton City Council and a loyal staff of great employees, and our city has many hard working employees from the Department heads to the troops that carry out the daily activities and duties to help keep our city running smooth and efficiently. Thanks for a Job Well Done!!!