

State of the City Address—2021

Ladies and Gentlemen 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 10 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 10 years. The 2020 financial statement has been presented tonight, and you will see that we are in a good financial condition.

2020 has been a challenge with COVID-19 for our employees, but everyone has taken precautions by the use of protective equipment and following the COVID protocols. Over the past several months the city had to adapt to new ways of conducting the daily business of the city such as holding meetings virtually and placing protective barriers in city facilities. Also, during this time, we had to have some of our employees work from home and limit our in person contact with the public. I am proud of the community who supported our local businesses and services during this pandemic and we actually seen over 15 new businesses open in 2020.

Those businesses include Anette Gore Re-Max Reality, Uptown Barber, Wendy's, Sam's Family Diner, TCBY, Kyle Werst Farmers Insurance, and Rack City Fitness which all opened in the Lakeview Plaza east of the Centerton Lake. Other businesses who opened include Woo Pig Mooie BBQ, Challaluah Bakery, Epic Smiles, All Star Nutrition, Frosty Bites Shaved Ice, Playstrong Centerton, Northwest Orthodontists, Tooth Squad Pediatric Dentistry and Wok and Roll food truck just to name a few of the new businesses. Stay tuned for updates on many more new businesses coming to our growing community.

Next, , I would like to report on multiple road projects going on in and around our city, first the Traffic Light installation at Main Street and Seba/Town View Road is underway and should be completed soon, there were delays due to the height of the electric wires and the pole height on the Northwest corner and ARDOT and the contractor have been working together to resolve this issue. When the project is done, sidewalk will be added along with turning lanes and pedestrian crossing signs and a traffic signal. The city is also working to make several road improvements within the city and several paving projects have occurred, also the city is working with Benton County and Shubert Mitchell homes in a partnership to pave Walters Road and work has been going on and the road should be paved in early spring. The city is also working

with the City of Bentonville to redesign Greenhouse Road and. Grant was applied for and approved and the design phase of the road should begin soon.

The Public Works Department also used over \$250,000 in gravel base maintaining existing roads and used over \$7,000 in concrete making improvements in the city. The city has also invested over \$180,000 in drainage and box culverts to improve drainage in the community.

Our Planning department has been very busy with several projects active at one time, at any given time there are 12-15 different subdivisions, and several commercial projects are in some phase of development. The city has approved the 2040 Comprehensive Plan as the city continues to grow this will give a direction for the future. The Planning department due to the workload has added an additional planner and currently the planning department is at full staff, with 2 of our planners with AICP certification.

Centerton has seen a huge impact on building in our city with a total of nearly 8400 inspections in 2020, with a total of almost \$1,000,000 in building permit fees for the year, we have seen a huge increase in 2020 of many commercial projects coming to the city with many more services and restaurants coming to our community. For 2020 we had 679 new residential permits, 86 multi-family permits, 13 commercial permits, 45 swimming pool permits and 374 miscellaneous permits. We are seeing a good start in 2021 with first month revenue of over \$94,000 there are several large subdivisions coming to the community which will increase the number of inspections, also most permits now are done online, along with scheduling which streamlines the process.

The Code Enforcement division has been extremely busy with a large number of grass complaints in 2020 along with a large number of sidewalk inspections, since implemented the officer has been very proactive in identifying violators, which has kept the number of complaints down for the year.

The Parks Department has been busy in 2020 with the Kinyon Sports Complex where all the fields, to include a soccer field are now open and all have lights, and several teams use the fields on a regular basis including Centerton Little League, which had a good first season despite COVID 19 concerns and with their schedule normally full. The Splash Pad and restroom facility at McKissic Park are 95 percent complete with new sidewalk and all landscaping in place and should available in late spring for the community pending any COVID 19 restrictions. Also, the Parks and Recreation department has replaced all playground equipment in the community which are all ADA complainant, and a new basketball court is being added to the main park.

Lighting has been added to the entire length of the trail at McKissic Park and the city has received a \$250,000 grant to continue the trail into the City of Bentonville and the city is actively working together to accomplish this goal. Also, the city has given away over 500 trees

in October and also received over 1000 trees thanks to a grant from the Wal Mart Family Foundation, which has really enhanced the appearance of the community with another group of trees planning to be given away during Arbor Day.

The Centerton Police Department recorded over 16,820 total calls for service according to Central Dispatch with 2,742 incident reports and 7,880 reports. The department has recently changed radio systems to the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) and all radios have been installed and issued to the officers.

The Centerton Fire Department responded to over 1353 calls for service in 2020 and is currently staffed with 23 full time firefighters and 5 part time fire fighters and 5 volunteers. Training continues on a continuous basis and our department hosts training on a regular basis. Also, in 2020 the department added a full time Training Officer and has added ambulance service to the community with a contract with Northwest Hospital to house 2 ambulances in the city. The city is currently working to add living quarters to Station 2 on Highway 72 to house a ambulance and crew at this location.

The Centerton Water and Sewer Department is currently installing new sewer line to the south part of the community and work has been completed on a new 3-million gallon water storage tank, and a new office building is being built just north of city hall to house the water department due to the rapid growth of the department.

Centerton Animal Control, in 2020 had 264 impounds of Centerton dogs and 202 impounds of Bentonville dogs, the partnership with the city of Bentonville has been great and many owners are able to reunite with their pets, also the shelter had 153 adoptions and 307 were released to their owner The shelter uses Facebook to post dogs picked up and there is a great response from the community not only reuniting pets but also adopting them from the shelter, also the shelter is featured once a month on KNWA pet of the month and also on KFSM Channel 5.

The city has the City Hall and Court Facility under construction, and you received an update on this project in this evening's council meeting. As the city grows the need is here for this building and this will serve the community well. The city also purchased 20 acres of land and we are brainstorming ideas for that land and also looking for ideas for the old city hall building as we want to keep a presence downtown.

Lastly, I appreciate the opportunity to work with each of you and for the citizens of our community over the past 10 years, and 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.!!!