

State of the City Address—2016

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 5 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 5 years. The 2015 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 the first part of Kimmel Road has been paved from Greenhouse Road to Buckhorn Flats Road, which will give better access to a another housing addition going in the area. Also many new road improvements are in progress in the area of the new Bentonville West High School, Gamble Road is being widened to 3 lanes near the school and also Seba, Keller, Walters, and Harbaugh Roads and improvements have also been made on Highway 72. Also the city has secured 3 separate grants totaling 1 Million dollars for improvements at Seba and Main Street to include widening the intersection and installing crosswalks and traffic lights.

Talking about the east side of the city our Planning department has been very busy with several commercial projects completed last year to include a new Mercy Clinic, and Liquor store and many exciting projects have started last year and will be completed this year to include, Ravington Events Center, Centerton Nursing Home, Centerton Retail Center, O'Rileys Auto Parts, and several subdivisions were approved just to name a few. With the opening of Bentonville West High School this fall we expect several more subdivisions to be started or completed in the area of the new school. Also the city has seen housing starts in the Southeast part of the city and expect many more building lots to become available in this sector of the city. Also we do expect to see an increase of commercial services for our community as we grow with the addition of the high school. The city will be adding another person in this department to help with the workload of projects coming in on a daily basis.

Centerton has seen a huge impact on building in our city with a total of 5673 inspections and 311 permits issued in 2015, with a total of over \$430,000 in building permit fees for the year, this is one of the biggest years we have seen, 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 duties of Code Enforcement has been moved from this department and has been placed under the Public Works Director, who will also use the officer to help with not only code issues, but other compliance issues such as MS4 violations and inspections and other types of inspections to be completed. With the addition of this department the officer will have time to spend with code violations and help keep our city clean.

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 18 full time officers and 2 part time officers. The city will be looking to add an additional officer this year to serve as a School Resource Officer with the opening of the new high school this fall. 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 has been no trends in criminal activity in our community that should be cause for our community. The city also increased 2 positions one in the police department to serve as a deputy police clerk and one deputy court clerk, due to the increase of the workload of the police department and court.

Next is the Street department, the department has been doing a great job keeping our roads and parks up to date and repaired, this year we will be adding 2 additional positions to help with mowing during our peak times, the city has also invested in new equipment this year to include the purchase of a street sweeper. Major projects for this year will be the finishing of roads near and around the high school, which was stated earlier, and also major repairs to the intersection of South Main Street and Fish Hatchery Roads.

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 will also be 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. Also last year the city was able to secure grants to install Disc Golf, which has been a popular sport and also completed the pavilion at the park.

The Centerton Fire Department responded to over 900 calls for service in 2015, 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 9 full time firefighters, 5 part time firefighters, and also 33 volunteers, also the department was able to add 2 new trucks to the fleet, and was able to pay off the support truck that was purchased.

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 in 265 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.

The City received several grants this year as I mentioned earlier several STP-A grants for road improvements and \$15,000 from State Rep. Dan Douglass to help place a restroom facility in the main park for the community which will be installed in March of this year.

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.!!!