

State of the City Address—2018

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 7 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 7 years. The 2017 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 is working with the Arkansas DOT to complete a traffic signal and sidewalks and turn lanes at Main Street and Seba Roads. Currently the city is working with the utilities to relocate which could take up to 6 months and then the remainder of the project will be completed. Also 2017 was a big year for paving several miles of roads in our community to include Allen, Kimmel, and several roads in the Quail Ridge and Sienna subdivisions. The city is also working with a grant to install sidewalks on Gamble Roads and Bliss Street and is actively seeking grants for other projects.

Our Planning department has been very busy with several projects active at one time, at any given time there are 12-15 different subdivisions in some phase of development. The Planning staff added one additional person in 2017 for a total staff of 4 and is able to assign projects to a particular person to give a one stop contact person for each project. Also a new software system was approved to help keep track of the progress of many projects.

Centerton has seen a huge impact on building in our city with a total of over 7000 inspections 2017, with a total of over \$600,000 in building permit fees for the year, this is the biggest years we have seen, and with the additional of additional subdivisions we will see an increase in inspections this coming year. The inspection department also upgraded the software for inspections and builders can simply send in a request for a inspection and the results will be sent to them in real time. This saves both the city and a builder time and takes the guess work out of the status.

Code Enforcement has implemented new software to keep track of code violations and also MS4 events and grading permits. The software appears to be working well.

The Police department had over 9000 calls for service and wrote over 2000 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 city is also adding one additional officer and will look to add one more at mid-year if funds are available, this will give a total staff of 3 command staff, 12 patrol officers, 4 sergeants, 3 CID officers and 3 part time positions, and 2 school resource officers.

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 has received a grant to install a splash pad at the McKissic Park. Electronic devices have been added to Kinyon Sports Complex to be able to open the restrooms and turn the lights on remotely. The city will also be upgrading playground equipment in several parks and adding additional parks in the coming year.

The Centerton Fire Department responded to over 950 calls for service in 2017, and is currently staffed with 20 full time firefighters and 1 part time fire fighter and 26 volunteers.

The Centerton Water and Sewer Department also had a good year is currently working to install electronic metering where the meters can be read remotely and have the ability to detect large amounts of water usage and inform the customers in the event of a major leak.

Centerton Animal control had a great year in adoptions and returning missing pets to their owners by the use of Face Book, the shelter took in 280 dogs in 2017 and one pig, and 109 of the dogs were adopted and the remainder was returned to their owners. The City of Centerton has entered into a 3 year agreement with the City of Bentonville to house their dogs at our location and we are excited about the partnership.

Lastly, I appreciate the opportunity to work with each of you and for the citizens of our community over the past 8 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!!!