

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

JULY 2020

Hello, Everyone,

It is good to talk to you again. With all the chaos around the country, I decided to take a break from the 24/7 hate that is on the news. It has helped. It seems like everything is a crisis, and anyone that has a different opinion, about anything, is some kind of monster. It gives me a bad attitude. I probably have different opinions on lots of things, but if your opinion is different than mine, that's ok. We don't have to agree on everything to be friends! I have people disagree with me quite often, loudly sometimes, but that's part of the job. I don't hate them - or anyone - for that matter. That doesn't mean I don't get frustrated. I understand that emotions can get the best of us sometimes. Heck, my wife and I don't agree on a lot of things, but we've been married over 40 years. OK, we agree on the important stuff, like she's always right. LOL. I truly believe if we treat others like we want to be treated, everything will work out. I know that is easier said than done, but with a little thought and less reaction, over time things get easier and better.

Things at City Hall are as busy as ever. There never seems to be a break. Every time we get something finished, there seems to be five more things that have been waiting. Some things just need to be done. One of the bigger things we will be doing is a complete review and overhaul of our city ordinances. This process is expected to take at least a year. It will take a tremendous amount of time and dedication to review every part of our code book. Now is the time to give us your input if you have any ideas you would like to see for changes in the ordinances. We will do our best to address any suggestions.

Another task is to begin the development of a capital improvement plan. This is a process to look into the future and see what big ticket items we should be planning for; such as: replacing the downtown bridge, road replacement and repair, expansion projects, sewer and water main replacement, and so on. These are things that will need to be done eventually. This will help the city council and employees better prepare for these things that might be 3, 5, 10, or even 20 years down the road. Again, this will take time and a long-term thought process. A good plan is detailed but flexible.

It makes me sad to have a year with no fun. No big day, no ball games, no garage sales, no events to bring people together. BUT a BIG thank you to Phil Travis and the Sons of the American Legion for putting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. They will be shot off from Larry Beatty's field just south of the creek at 10:00 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be a really good show, set to music on FM 102.5, so get a good seat and enjoy!

That's all for now. Thank you for your time.

Lonnie