

State of the City Presentation

Mike – In the last 6 months, I have focused on responsible development. I have heard the residents say they are tired of bearing the tax burden alone, so we are looking to stimulate growth.

We're creating the infrastructure that drives the housetops that drives the varied and vibrant industry and retail that creates a great tax base.

Mike says he turned in a report that contains most of the Planning Department's projects and successes.

Some goals for the next 6 months:

There will be a development to announce, hopefully by the end of the week. We've worked hard to move this forward.

The 160 Underpass engineering has been no easy feat.

Downtown upgrades that include parking, sidewalks, and crosswalks will continue.

A communication ordinance with conduits in new neighborhoods will reduce or eliminate boring and create a great system for pulling fiber.

Commendations: The best thing Willard has done by far is to hire a City Administrator who has a vision for the future. It is changing the trajectory and he works hard to include the community in sharing that vision for that future.

Trevor and his Public Works team work very well together. They are professional and respond immediately to a need. These traits are becoming rare in both the private and public sector; they are very appreciated.

Chief – The biggest success of the past 6 months is the vote of confidence the Board gave by authorizing the .5% tax to be put to a vote, and then seeing the public support it. With Troy Smith's election and Wes Young's appointment, this is the golden age for our police department. We have support like never before. Having a PIO that supports us changes everything, as well. We saw a bump in starting pay and an agreement to allow take-home vehicles that showed that the City values recruiting and retention of quality people. I feel that I am leaving the department in good hands when I retire. Lt (?) Shipley attended Executive Training and it is planned that she will attend Command College later this year.

We got the Motorola equipment that will really help the community and the department. We got those new patrol vehicles. We are proud of PAL boxing, the DARE program, Camp Character. We took the first steps in getting certified as a Blue Shield Community.

But by far our biggest accomplishments are investing in our people. Our new recruit Levi—I spent a lot of time recruiting him. He has a future in law enforcement. Corporal Caleb—he has a gift. Sgt Purdy is a genius (Told the story of how he was recruited) We find their talents and then get them all of the training that is possible and they really shine. Now, we have the funding to provide a bump in pay and I believe that could really happen. We have good people training so that even when I am gone, we will have a great police department. Maybe a legacy. Of excellence.

Trevor and JR—

Trevor brought in the report he emailed you. But he and JR did also want to highlight/add:

They worked on Better Together Park.

They have been winterizing water systems by putting insulation in meter pits. Inspected water pipe on Main Street, replacing 40 feet of clay pipe. Cane St: 200 feet of galvanized.

Currently, they have 13 water projects going, mainly replacing galvanized water pipe. They continue to identify problems through I&I.

Proactive water and sewer repairs are the focus of the next 6 months.

In the Meadows, over by Lone Oak, there have been so many problems with the water lines, they will be completely replacing a portion of the line there.

Asphalt repair is going to be cheaper and easier, with the drag box and soon the dump truck.

Trevor mentioned that having an inspector hired will really help PW's effectiveness over the next six months.

Trevor mentioned that the City departments are all working together better now than he has seen in his 13-year career with the City. "The right person for the job is currently running each department." He says that feeling builds momentum to accomplish things. There is a lot of appreciation. The departments help each other. The Planning Director, Mike, got in and helped finish concrete on the AB sidewalk, when it was needed. The results of good leadership continue to grow and compound.