Council Member Adella Gray
Ward 1 Position 1

Council Member Sarah Marsh
Ward 1 Position 2

Council Member Mark Kinion
Ward 2 Position 1

Council Member Matthew Petty
Ward 2 Position 2

Council Member Justin Tennant
Ward 3 Position 1

Council Member Sarah Bunch
Ward 3 Position 2

Council Member John La Tour
Ward 4 Position 1

Council Member Kyle Smith
Ward 4 Position 2

Mayor Lioneld Jordan
City Attorney Kit Williams
City Clerk Sondra E. Smith

City of Fayetteville Arkansas
City Council Meeting
January 16, 2018

A meeting of the Fayetteville City Council was held on January 16, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 219 of the City Administration Building located at 113 West Mountain Street, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Council Members Adella Gray, Sarah Marsh, Mark Kinion, Matthew Petty, Justin Tennant, Sarah Bunch, John La Tour, Kyle Smith, Mayor Lioneld Jordan, City Attorney Kit Williams, City Clerk Sondra Smith, Staff, Press, and Audience.

Council Member Bunch arrived late.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor's Announcements, Proclamations and Recognitions: None

City Council Meeting Presentations, Reports, and Discussion Items:

Public Facilities Board Appointment

Council Member Kinion: We have a Public Facilities Board recommendation from the Public Facilities Board for Kelsey Kent, one term ending December 31, 2022. This has not been to the full committee because we didn't receive it in time that I would submit it for consideration to the full City Council. It is an appointment that is sent to us by the Public Facilities Board.

Mayor Jordan: What discussion do we want to have on this?

Council Member Kinion: Kit, it didn't go through committee. Can we go ahead and consider it?

City Attorney Kit Williams: Yes, you can if you want. They do a nomination, it's whether you all affirm it or not. This board primarily handles bond issues very occasionally. They need a full board if possible.

Council Member Kinion: I recommend we move forward for consideration by the full City Council.

Council Member Kinion moved to approve the appointment of Kelsey Kent. Council Member Gray seconded the motion. Upon roll call the motion passed 6-1. Council Members Smith, Gray, Marsh, Kinion, Petty, and Tennant voting yes. Council Member La Tour voting no. Council Member Bunch was absent.

Housing Authority Board Appointment

Council Member Kinion: We did not receive this from the Housing Authority in time to be considered with our other appointments. We received a notification from the Housing Authority with the recommendation of Christopher White. This is a reappointment of one term ending December 28, 2022.

Council Member Marsh: I received quite a bit of feedback from constituents who were present at the meeting where they interviewed the candidates. They encouraged us to select someone else. Christopher White has been on the board for at least one term. I think we all know the recent issues we've had with the Housing Authority Board. I would like to see us make some changes to that committee and get some new blood in there. I will not be supporting the re-nomination of Christopher White.

Mayor Jordan: We've got to have somebody put the nomination on the floor, I assume.

City Attorney Kit Williams: The statute says that if the governing body fails to confirm or reject the commissioners' appointment within 45 days after receiving the written notice of the appointment, the appointment shall be deemed confirmed and the governing body shall have no further power to act in that case. You would need to act within 45 days of receiving the notice. You either affirm or deny it. If you reject it, then it goes back to the Housing Authority Board for them to recommend the appointment of someone else.

Mayor Jordan: Do we table it or what do we need to do?

City Attorney Kit Williams: It is up to the City Council. When was the notification provided?

Council Member Kinion: According to the letter that was sent out, the letter was written on December 29, 2017. I certainly didn't receive it at that point.

City Attorney Kit Williams: Do you have an idea when it was received by?

Council Member Kinion: This was sent to the City Clerk office.

City Attorney Kit Williams: Is there an indication of when that was received?

City Clerk Sondra Smith: It was probably received that day or the next day. I would have to look at the emails to see.

Council Member Tennant: You can look at the time received by stamp.

City Clerk Sondra Smith: If it came by email, it probably wouldn't be stamped received.

Mayor Jordan: That's true.

Council Member Tennant: Everything I get has a received by stamp. I just want clarification on this and has nothing to do with the person because I don't know them. This board normally would put this nomination in and the Nominating Committee would talk about it?

Council Member Kinion: Yes.

Council Member Tennant: But, in this case, just like the other one, we didn't get it in time for the Nominating Committee? We have quarterly Nominating Committee meetings?

Council Member Kinion: That is correct. They are announced and the vacancies are all published. This was published.

Council Member Tennant: There is a part of me that wants to keep consistent with the quarterly system we have in place. I don't know if it would harm the board if we waited until the next Nominating Committee meeting.

City Attorney Kit Williams: It shouldn't harm the board. The standard rule is that you continue serving until your replacement has been appointed.

Council Member Tennant: Will the meeting be in February?

Council Member Kinion: It will be in late February or early March.

Council Member Tennant: That's only a month from now.

Council Member Kinion: Appointments are generally beginning in April.

Mayor Jordan: What happens if there's no action taken by the Council?

City Attorney Kit Williams: If you go past the 45 days then that person is automatically approved.

Don Marr, Chief of Staff: If the Council wants to see a new name or the opportunity to interview, you would need to turn this one down so you have an action take place. Then you could vote when the next name is presented.

Council Member Tennant: If we did that and this was the only nomination, then we do what we usually do when there's only one nomination, appoint unless we decide to leave it open. I don't know what harm it is in waiting.

City Attorney Kit Williams: The statute says they will appoint another person. They could not appoint the same person according to the state law. They still only appoint a single person and then it comes back to you again.

Council Member Marsh: As a member of the Nominating Committee, I'd be happy to convene a special meeting to get this vacancy filled. This is a very small board. They only have five members right now. As few as three people can constitute a quorum, which is a dangerous position. One of the newest board members, Melissa Terry is making inquiries with the Attorney General determining if they can expand the number of members on the board so we can get a little broader perspective. It was clear from the latest decision-making process they used that we need some fresh blood on this board. Reappointing this candidate is not the right choice for our city and the people who are dependent on these services. There were quite a few qualified nominees that had applied. If they could bring us another nominee, I don't have any reservations that we will able to put someone appropriately qualified on the board in a timely manner.

Council Member Kinion stated he wanted to move the process forward and consider the nomination from the Housing Authority Board.

Mayor Jordan: I want us to see a consensus among the Council in a decision like this.

Council Member Kinion moved to approve the appointment of Christopher White. Council Member Gray seconded the motion. Upon roll call the motion failed 2-6. Council Members Gray and Petty voting yes. Council Members La Tour, Smith, Marsh, Kinion, Tennant, and Bunch voting no.

City Attorney Kit Williams: If the governing body fails to confirm or reject the commissioner's appointment within 45 days after receiving it, then the written notice of appointment shall be deemed confirmed. You would need to reject this nominee or else it's going to be automatically confirmed within 45 days of when they filed it.

Council Member Smith: Is that something we could table within the 45 days and potentially look at interviewing in a special session of the Nominating Committee?

City Attorney Kit Williams: If you reject this nominee, it goes back to the Housing Authority Board and they will submit somebody else to you. It's not a normal situation where you can interview a whole bunch of different people and choose who you like. I don't think that unless you approve a motion to reject the candidate, you have not taken final action. Therefore, it won't go back to them and eventually this person is going to be approved automatically.

Mayor Jordan: If they reject this candidate then the Housing Authority will bring another candidate?

City Attorney Kit Williams: Yes. It would go back to the Housing Authority and they have 30 days to submit another candidate.

Council Member Petty: I voted to confirm the candidate because they were nominated by the Housing Authority. I don't have any evidence as to why I wouldn't support this candidate. If somebody wanted to present that, I would give it consideration.

It was confirmed there wasn't anyone in attendance from the Housing Authority Board.

Council Member La Tour moved to reject the appointment of Christopher White. Council Member Marsh seconded the motion. Upon roll call the motion failed 2-6. Council Members La Tour and Marsh voting yes. Council Members Smith, Gray, Kinion, Petty, Tennant, and Bunch voting no.

City Attorney Kit Williams: Neither one of those ended this nomination, which means in 45 days after notice, this person will take office unless the City Council does something else.

Mayor Jordan: I guess you will be having a meeting?

Council Member Kinion: Yes, we will.

No one was appointed

Presentation of the City of Fayetteville Martin Luther King Brotherhood Award - Kit Williams

City Attorney Kit Williams: I have been privileged to select and honor a City of Fayetteville employee to receive the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brotherhood Award. This award is given annually in recognition to a city employee whose service to our city and our community best exemplifies Dr. King's dream of equality, justice, and brotherhood. This year's honoree has exemplified Dr. Martin Luther King's spirit of equality and legacy of service. He has proved his commitment to improving our community by championing opportunities for our disadvantaged citizens. For the last dozen years at the Fayetteville Police Department, this officer has participated in and coordinated our local law enforcement Torch Run to raise money and public awareness for the Special Olympics. He has helped and recruited fellow officers to join in other fund-raising events and assist athletes in the Special Olympics games. Last year Corporal Greg Dawson was selected by Special Olympics International to participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Austria for the 2017 Special Olympics World Games. Corporal Dawson help carry the Flame of Hope to the Austrians Special Olympics World Games. He has excelled as a Fayetteville Police Officer and served as a firearms instructor, field training officer, and crisis negotiator. He currently works in the Community Oriented Policing Division and has developed community outreach programs. He has been certified as a peer support counselor to assist his fellow officers. Corporal

Dawson's long service to our disadvantaged citizens, fellow officers, and to Fayetteville exemplifies Dr. King's dream of equality, justice, brotherhood, and service to others and to our community.

Mayor Jordan: Congratulations and well done.

State of the City Address - Mayor Lioneld Jordan

Mayor Lioneld Jordan read the State of the City Address.

A copy is attached.

Agenda Additions: None

Consent:

Approval of the January 2, 2018 City Council Meeting Minutes.

Approved

ESRI, Inc.: A resolution to authorize Mayor Jordan to sign a three-year enterprise license agreement with ESRI, Inc. in the amount of $50,000.00 per year for the continued use of Geographic Information System Software, and to approve a project contingency in the amount of $5,000.00 per year.

Resolution 30-18 as recorded in the office of the City Clerk

J.A. Riggs Tractor Company d/b/a Riggs Cat: A resolution to authorize the purchase of an emergency backup generator from J.A. Riggs Tractor Company d/b/a Riggs Cat in the amount of $127,079.25, pursuant to a National Joint Powers Alliance cooperative purchasing agreement, for use at the Gregg Street Wastewater Lift Station.

Resolution 31-18 as recorded in the office of the City Clerk

Adopt Fayetteville Police Department Policies: A resolution to approve Fayetteville Police Department Policies on the Labor Management Team, Narcotic Overdose Treatment, and Traffic Enforcement.

Resolution 32-18 as recorded in the office of the City Clerk

Bid #17-72 Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.: A resolution to award Bid #17-72 and authorize the purchase of a Mobile Air Cascade System Trailer Unit from Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc. in the amount of $114,675.00 plus applicable taxes.

Resolution 33-18 as recorded in the office of the City Clerk

Transpiration Block Grant Program Funds: A resolution to express the willingness of the City of Fayetteville to apply for and utilize Federal-Aid Surface Transportation Block Grant program funds in the amount of $350,000.00 to design the West Howard Nickell Road & Highway 112 Intersection Improvement project, and to approve a city match of $35,000.00 for the project.

Resolution 34-18 as recorded in the office of the City Clerk

Council Member Gray moved to accept the Consent Agenda as read. Council Member Marsh seconded the motion. Upon roll call the motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

RFP #17-17 RJR Enterprises, Inc.: A resolution to award RFP #17-17 and authorize a contract with RJR Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $369,846.00 for the construction of a splash pad and restrooms at Walker Park, to approve a project contingency in the amount of $33,054.00, and to approve a budget adjustment recognizing parkland dedication fees in the amount of $82,900.00.

Ted Jack, Park Planning Superintendent gave a brief description of the resolution.

Council Member Tennant: If we approve this, what is the timeline for buildout and final?

Ted Jack: Construction should complete around the middle of the summer.

Council Member Gray moved to approve the resolution. Council Member La Tour seconded the motion. Upon roll call the resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 35-18 as recorded in the office of the City Clerk

ANX 17-5990 (North of Rupple Rd./McFarland Family Trust) Appeal: An ordinance to approve the annexation petition of the McFarland Family Trust and annex 68.65 acres adjoining and west of the proposed northern expansion of Rupple Road.

City Attorney Kit Williams read the ordinance.

City Attorney Kit Williams: The applicant has asked for this to be tabled indefinitely. We are in discussions with them about this issue and hope to bring something back to the Council in the future.

Mayor Jordan requested Garner Stoll, Development Services Director to speak about the item.

Garner Stoll, Development Services Director: We received a request to postpone it indefinitely. They want to work on their application.

Mayor Jordan: We have been working on this and have not come to a solution.

Nadine Brannan, 4340 Weir Road stated her concerns about traffic and spoke against the ordinance.

Garlen Yell, Fayetteville resident stated he wasn't necessarily against the annexation, but requested the City Council to look at the 2030 City Plan goals when negotiating.

Council Member Tennant moved to table the ordinance indefinitely. Council Member Marsh seconded the motion. Upon roll call the motion passed unanimously.

This ordinance was Tabled Indefinitely.

RZN 17-5991 (N. Of Rupple Rd./McFarland Family Trust) Appeal: An ordinance to rezone that property described in rezoning petition RZN 17-5991 for approximately 68.65 acres located west of North Rupple Road from R-A, Residential Agricultural to RSF-4, Residential Single Family, 4 units per acre.

City Attorney Kit Williams: It is apparent this is not going to be the rezoning ordinance that's coming before you. Therefore, I ask that you table indefinitely.

Council Member Marsh moved to table the ordinance indefinitely. Council Member La Tour seconded the motion. Upon roll call the motion passed unanimously.

This ordinance was Tabled Indefinitely.

Announcements: None

City Council Agenda Session Presentations:

Agenda Session Presentation- Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Bi-Annual Update

Agenda Session Presentation- Startup Junkie Consulting LLC Bi-Annual Update

City Council Tour: None

Adjournment: 6:40 p.m.

Lioneld Jordan, Mayor

Sondra E. Smith, City Clerk Treasurer

Chair Mark Kinion
Ward 2 Position 1

Sarah Marsh
Ward 1 Position 2

Sarah Bunch
Ward 3 Position 2

Kyle Smith
Ward 4 Position 2

Nominating Committee Report

The Public Facility Board recommends the following candidate for appointment:

PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD
Kelsey Kent – One term ending 12/31/22

State of the City
January 16, 2018
Mayor Lioneld Jordan

To the City Council, the City Attorney, City Clerk, and all of our citizens, I offer you the following remarks in our 2018 State of the City.

My friends, as Eleanor Roosevelt once said: "Believe in yourself. You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you stop to look fear in the face...You must do that which you think you cannot do...The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

It takes strength and courage to follow your dreams, to do what you think you cannot do. In this City, we dream big and we need to continue to stay focused, and know that what we are doing now will lay the groundwork for future generations to build upon.

We must continue to forge ahead and make sure that we don't move to the safe zone. We must remain consistent and steady, taking just the right bold risks to set things in motion for the future. It is not a question of whether, but when, and at what pace, we invite change to achieve a sustainable outcome.

The year of 2017 was one of those years that was shaped by many bold decisions and by very fortunate circumstances. I'd like to spend some time with you tonight reflecting on this past year and laying the foundation for what is to come.

As I begin this State of the City, I want to thank certain individuals and teams who have helped us continue to forge ahead and lead this successful City.

I would like to thank our City Clerk Sondra Smith for her and her staff's excellent work to make City government transparent and accessible to the people and to keep us organized as we govern together.

I also want to thank our City Attorney Kit Williams for his and his staff's excellence in providing sound legal guidance and his work on behalf of the citizens of Fayetteville.

I would also like to thank Judge Bill Storey and his court's staff for their excellent work on ensuring a superior district court and providing justice for our community.

I would like to thank you, the City Council, for your hard work over the past year, and for serving your constituents and the City as a whole with your financial stewardship and strategic leadership.

I also couldn't end my "thank yous" without taking a moment to thank all of our dedicated City staff and all of our citizens for your hard work and support over this past year.

We are fortunate to have the best, most talented, and hardest working City staff of any city, always seeking continuous improvement.

Our citizens are extremely active and bold in their thinking and our City Council supports those citizens' initiatives with a passionate, sincere, and dedicated commitment to public service. For without you, our City would not achieve the excellence we have attained. We will continue to strive for excellence in the upcoming year of 2018.

I want to thank our Convention and Visitors Bureau team, Experience Fayetteville, for all of the great work they do promoting our city.

I want to thank our economic development partners, the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and Startup Junkie Consulting.

I also want to thank our partnerships with the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Public Schools, the Fayetteville Public Library, our regional medical facilities, and the hundreds of community support organizations and volunteers.

The work we do together proves that our partnership-based government is thriving. Together, our choices can have a positive impact on the lives of our residents with the decisions we make every day - for all of our people - to protect their interests and provide for their needs.

As your Mayor, I am always thinking about how to make life better for everyone. I am always exploring and expanding what is possible within this administration. In addition, I am working hard to create a welcoming and equitable community for all our citizens.

Last year, I talked about the soul of our community and how we can continue to progress with the principles that have defined our culture. And despite uncertainties that may arise, I promise to maintain what we can – to the best of my ability – and overcome these obstacles. This administration always strives to manage the interconnections of this community to ensure prosperity, fairness, and resilience.

Awards and Accomplishments

Let us take just a few moments to celebrate some of the successes of the past year.

The following list of awards and recognitions describes our City well.

- In 2017, we were named one of the fifth Best Places to Live by U. S. News and World Report
- Seventh Best City to Launch a Career by Realtor.com, and
- Eighth Top U. S. Cities for Career Opportunities from Smart Asset.com
- Last week, Talk Business presented Fayetteville with four Arkansas Trendsetter Cities Awards in the categories of Workforce Development, Infrastructure, Environment, and Wellness
- The Fayetteville Public Library was again chosen as Best Public Library by both Citiscapes Magazine and the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette's "Best of 2017 Readers Polls"
- With CH2, we maintained our position as the top "Water Resources Utility of the Future Today" for the 2nd year in a row
- We were honored by Preserve Arkansas for the rehabilitation of our historic Maple and Lafayette Street bridges
- We were presented the "2017 Special Contribution to Planning Award" by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association for our Tactical Urbanism Application Process
- We were awarded our second "Glass Recycling Program of the Year" from Ripple Glass. Our City recycles more than 20 tons of glass each week
- Our walkability initiatives earned us a bronze-level "Walk Friendly Community" designation – the first in Arkansas

- In addition, our commitment to improving conditions for bicycling advanced us to the silver-level designation of "Bike Friendly City" – one of only 73 across the nation and the first in Arkansas
- The Arkansas Parks and Recreation Association presented five awards to our Parks and Recreation Department for volunteerism, trail work, and recreational events
- The Arbor Day Foundation again recognized us as a "Tree City USA Community" for the ***22nd*** consecutive year
- The American Heart Association also named the City as a "Fit Friendly Employer"
- We received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation" award and "Certificate of Achievement" from the Governmental Finance Officers Association
- Our Media Services division received two "Telly Awards" and expanded public access television services to include Washington and Benton counties

Master Plans

Earlier I spoke about dreaming big, staying focused, and laying the groundwork for future generations.

In 2017, we worked hard on numerous master plans to ensure our community is thoughtful about the future.

- We implemented the first year of our five-year economic vitality plan – "Fayetteville First" and welcomed the City's first Economic Vitality Director
- We adopted a new "Solid Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling Master Plan" with the goal of achieving 40% waste diversion by 2027
- We adopted an "Energy Action Plan" – the first in Arkansas. The plan also makes Fayetteville the 54th U.S. city to adopt a 100% clean energy goal
- We also purchased 100 shares of solar energy panels
- We conducted a Parking Management Study and the Fayetteville Mobility Plan to determine what strategies and investments are needed to improve transportation in our community
- We completed our "Welcoming Fayetteville Plan" for integrating new Americans into our community (look for this plan to come before City Council in the first quarter of 2018)
- We completed our Work plan for Drainage Design and Construction in 2018

Our city is growing and changing as more people choose to move here. This year:

- We will revisit City Plan 2030, our roadmap to the future, to make sure we preserve what makes Fayetteville special while we prepare for an even greater future
- Our continued work on North College Avenue connects us to our neighbors to the North and serves as a front door to downtown Fayetteville
- In 2018, we will be working with adjacent property owners and surrounding neighborhoods to develop a Corridor Plan to guild public investments and private redevelopment to transform College into a livable and attractive new Main Street
- We will begin the next 10-year Strategic Plan for Parks and Recreation
- We will embark on a Digital Inclusion Plan to ensure that all have access to and use of information and communication technologies to create equality and improve education and access to jobs

FAYETTEVILLE VISION 2050 – GUIDING PRINICPLES

In early 2017, the City's elected officials and administration team came together for strategic planning sessions. Through this process, a framework for the future was developed and implementation strategies are currently being built.

The City Council and I identified guiding principles for future policy, projects, planning, decisions, actions, and operations. The "Fayetteville Vision 2050" plan's guiding principles are:

1. A Diverse, and Growing Local Economy
2. A Naturally Beautiful, Fun, and Safe City to Live In
3. Well-maintained Infrastructure and Facilities
4. Greater Ease of Mobility with Effective Transportation Systems
5. Ecosystem Preservation
6. Financially Sustainable Government Providing Top-Notch Citizen Services

Let's look at each one of those in more detail.

1. A Diverse, and Growing Local Economy

Our robust economic development plan and strategic focus areas safeguard our first guiding principle for a Diverse and Growing Local Economy.

The vision is to Collaborate, Innovate, and Create. Fayetteville First, our economic development plan is in full swing. Through the creation of the Department of Economic Vitality, we have launched our economic development

website and now have staff whose sole purpose is the growth and development of our local economy.

- The largest entrepreneurial event ever in our state, the Arkansas Startup Crawl, was held in Downtown Fayetteville with an estimated 1100 in attendance
- This past fall, Our Pharma broke ground on a $31 million dollar manufacturing facility in the Commerce Park. Our Pharma will produce generic medications which will increase supply and lower costs
- Contingent on a license from the state's Medical Marijuana Commission, AR-Canna LLC will purchase municipal property and will build a medical manufacturing facility this year in the Commerce Park
- Pinnacle Foods is expanding their existing campus by adding a $30 million dollar cold storage facility. Pinnacle creates products that are found in 85% of America's households
- The largest film project in Arkansas History, HBO's True Detective series, will soon begin production in Fayetteville, with an estimated statewide economic impact of $100 million dollars
- 315 new businesses opened in 2017. And these new businesses created 1,175 new jobs in Fayetteville – the Startup City of the South

Economic Development touches so many different aspects of our community, and none is more important to the long-term economic health of our community than workforce development.

My friends, we will take a huge step in 2018 when we launch Fayetteville's Workforce Development Plan.

We will ensure our targeted industry sectors have the pipeline of talent they need to thrive. We will work with a broad range of partners to build bridges out of poverty for our citizens. We will explore the expansion of skilled trades and apprenticeship programs in our City.

A focus on business retention and attraction, desirable new retail shops, entrepreneurship and innovation, education and workforce, arts and culture, quality of life, affordable housing, and sustainability are anchors to this goal – all delivered through a strong marketing and communications plan.

We will show data-driven performance metrics to track business and job growth, wages, growth in sales tax-generating businesses and inquiries from prospective employers.

Also, in support of Workforce Development, Our City's Welcoming Plan will foster a more vibrant and diverse community, recognizing the value that new Americans bring to our economy. Research shows that entrepreneurs

come to this country to start high-potential companies. Foreign-born entrepreneurs are significant contributors to economic prosperity.

Last month, the Center for American Entrepreneurship published a study on the founders of America's Fortune 500 companies.

The results are striking - 43 percent of companies on the 2017 Fortune 500 List were founded or co-founded by an immigrant or the child of an immigrant. This, my friends, is just one of the reasons I will be bringing the recently completed Welcoming Plan to City Council in the first quarter of 2018.

We will pursue our goal of creating a diverse, vibrant local economy to provide jobs for our growing population.

In 2017, we made several changes to our Unified Development Code to help our development community and this year we will continue to make it easier to "get to yes" without sacrificing our high quality development standards.

The application of lean government principles and implementation of new permit tracking software will significantly streamline and improve our development review processes. We will engage all levels of our team to get this done and to instill a culture of continuous improvement.

In short, we will match our smart growth principles to our desires for a continually adaptive residential and business climate to truly make Fayetteville First as the place to live, work, play, and learn.

2. A Naturally Beautiful, Fun, and Safe City to Live In

Moving on to the second guiding principle is to ensure a Naturally Beautiful, Fun, and Safe City to Live in.

We pledge to protect the City's natural beauty and heritage, promote appropriate infill and revitalization, support a livable transportation network, and preserve an enduring green network.

We will also remember our heritage. Our Fayetteville Historic Preservation Commission will look at creating a new process for considering designation of local Historic Preservation Districts or Landmarks.

We will introduce an updated Tree Preservation and Landscape Ordinance in addition to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance.

A collaborative effort in support of tourism with our Convention and Visitor's Bureau will ramp up communication about events and recreational opportunities.

We will continue our partnership with Experience Fayetteville for Lights of the Ozarks, and continue to provide support for events, such as First Thursday, Block Street Block Party, and University of Arkansas's educational and sporting events.

We will continue to nurture our Parks System and Recreational Programs to make certain that there is something for every age group and activity level.

The city will continue its investment of budgetary support for the Senior Center, Yvonne Richardson Community Center, and the Boys and Girls Club for our youth and age-friendly programs.

Another very important annual investment the city makes is in operational and capital funding for the Fayetteville Public Library which is one our greatest community resources.

We are beginning to see the fruits of our labor with significant cultural arts improvements that will benefit many generations to come.

- In 2017, we completed the Walton Arts Center' $23 million dollar expansion, we broke ground on a new $31.5 million dollar TheatreSquared facility, and we completed public input sessions for the Fayetteville Public Library's campus expansion
- The University of Arkansas received a $120 million dollar donation from the Walton Family Foundation to expand the School of Art and another $40 million dollar donation to create the Windgate Art and Design District in the heart of south Fayetteville
- A $1.77 million dollar "Design Excellence" grant from the Walton Family Foundation will be used in 2018 to help our community envision a 50-acre Cultural Arts Corridor with green areas and engaging public spaces lining the Razorback Greenway and woven into our downtown neighborhoods. Once funded, the corridor will link arts, entertainment, cultural, educational, recreational, and civic destinations creating a destination for our community and its visitors. The Cultural Arts Corridor is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will have multi-generational impacts

Our Community Resources Division, through the federally-funded Community Development Block Grant Program, continues to:

- provide services for veterans' homelessness

- housing rehabilitation for low income citizens
- and transportation assistance for seniors and disadvantaged youth

We have phenomenal volunteers and staff who operate Fayetteville Animal Services. In 2017:

- We reunited 725 pets with their owners
- And we found new homes for 1,140 animals

Funding for improvements in the Entertainment and Downtown Business Districts is focused on creating pedestrian friendly lighting and sidewalks to help our citizens feel safe as they enjoy our downtown.

In addition, due to our increased staffing from 2017, our Police and Fire Departments are keeping up with the growth in service calls that a growing community requires (with over 1,000 more emergency response calls in 2017 than 2016).

3. Well-maintained Infrastructure and Facilities

The third guiding principle is to keep in step with maintaining our infrastructure and facilities while also planning for the future.

While each individual may use only a few roads, or a specific trail or park, our growing number of citizens and hundreds of thousands of visitors and tourists use our entire infrastructure year-round. It is vital that we continue to invest in maintenance and developing infrastructure as we grow.

Our digital infrastructure - as well as our City assets - such as buildings, roads, sidewalks, trails, parks, and utilities, including recycling and trash collection and water and sewer services, are all components of our focus.

In 2017, we completed and will continue to work on some significant infrastructure projects related to vehicle and active transportation:

- N. College Avenue received extensive work with new wide sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, stormwater drainage, decorative lights, street trees and a mural is underway
- A section of Old Wire Road was rebuilt with significant stormwater improvements and sidewalks. We will continue this work in 2018 with more sidewalks and protected bicycle lanes
- We've completed two of three Rupple Road segments, connecting neighborhoods, providing paved trails for pedestrians and cyclists. The thoroughfare adds considerable relief as an alternative to I-49. Once we

finalize the leg of Rupple to Howard Nickell Road, the Mayor's Box will be complete with a continuous arterial loop around the City
- Additionally, the Arkansas Department of Transportation will continue work on I-49 projects and begin design of Highway 112 improvements

We continue to grow our sidewalk and trail connectivity to help create a livable, multi-modal transportation system.

- We completed the sidewalk plans in 2017 – on time and on budget
- Paved trail improvements include completion of the Clabber Creek boardwalk and trail extension
- A mural was completed on the Tsa La Gi Trail recognizing the Cherokee people
- We've added 3.4 miles of energy-efficient LED lighting on the Mud Creek Trail and portions of the Razorback Greenway
- This year, we will build the Niokaska Creek Trail from Mud Creek Trail to Gulley Park. This will make a complete east/west trail connection from Gulley Park to the Greenway
- And early this year, we will complete the three-mile long Cato Springs Trail, traveling under I-49 and over the Fulbright Expressway. It will truly connect the region by paved trail – from the Kessler Mountain Regional Park to the Razorback Greenway.

Our Water and Sewer Operations projects include:

- Phosphorus Standards Management
- Lake Sequoyah Sediment Removal
- And a Water and Sewer Rate/Operations Study

The Recycling and Trash Collection Division will continue to implement the "Waste Reduction, Diversion, and Recycling Master Plan's" action steps with:

- A larger organics recovery and composting program
- We will release an RFP for construction debris recycling and recovery program
- We will also expand recycling service to multi-family complexes with 24 units or less
- Educate and engage residents and schools about our "Waste Not. Use Less" campaign
- This year, we will conduct a rate study so we can determine the "true cost" of all Recycling & Trash Collection Division services to determine appropriate rates.

In 2017, we celebrated "50 Years of Play" with our Parks and Recreation Division, kicking off the event at the wonderfully-renovated playground at Wilson Park – our oldest and most popular park.

- We also completed the Kessler Mountain Trails Master Plan and have created world-class trails for mountain bikers and hikers
- We also added nighttime lights and fun amenities for dog lovers and dogs at the Iams Dog Park
- The Walker Park Splash Pad will open this summer
- As the weather warms up, we will start construction on new bathrooms at Walker Park

Our hardworking Parks crew and contractors will:

- Replace lights on Wilson Park's tennis courts and improve the basketball courts
- We will repair a slope at the Kessler Mountain Regional Park with financial assistance from FEMA
- We will also make a number of safety and ADA improvements in our Parks.

Digital Infrastructure is another city asset that requires growth and ongoing maintenance.

Citizen-responsive services are essential as we strive to make informed decisions that increase effectiveness and reduce costs. We will continue to explore data-transparent strategies for informing decisions, enhancing the citizen experience with government services, and increasing community engagement through a new platform.

Some of the accomplishments of 2017 were:

- Mobile-friendly redesign of the web site
- Use of analytics and social media advertising
- A complete conversion of our enterprise business system - on time and under budget
- We enhanced network connectivity between city buildings and will soon roll out a map of free public WIFI in major parks and the entertainment district
- The City Council passed a small cell facilities ordinance that will bring a streamlined permitting process for small cell siting and enhanced wi-fi infrastructure
- We've increased our focus on cybersecurity for digital infrastructure
- We have fully implemented a proximity-based dispatch system for Fire and Emergency response using GIS technology

I have just launched the City's Digital Inclusion Planning Task Force in partnership with the University, the Fayetteville Public Library, and Fayetteville Public Schools to focus on promoting universal access, technology innovation, competition, and the implementation of affordable and accessible broadband for all citizens.

The Digital Inclusion Task Force will make recommendations for:

- Public policy priorities for furthering digital equity in Fayetteville for consumers, citizens, students, job seekers, and entrepreneurs
- The Task Force will also recommend strategies to increase paths to digital literacy and digital citizenship, improve access to online learning and employment opportunities, and close the homework gap

4. Greater Ease of Mobility with Effective Transportation Systems

As to the fourth principle of a greater ease of mobility with effective transportation systems, I have the following:

- The Fayetteville Mobility Plan is the city's newest Transportation Master Plan. It is complete and recommendations will be presented during 2018
- Our existing conditions and future land use strategies shaped the plan, along with considerable public input

Among its recommendations will be a connectivity gap analysis review and prioritization of transportation projects to include:

- Continued expansion of the City's trails and sidewalk network
- Coordination of a traffic signal system for improved mobility
- Intersection improvements to increase capacity and movement of vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists
- Long-term funding and route re-designs for a more robust transit system within the City

5. Ecosystem Preservation

The fifth principle is Ecosystem Preservation that focuses on climate action planning, the maintenance and preservation of our ecosystem and natural resources, pollution reduction, and the protection of the environment.

In June of 2017 when the Federal Government announced the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, the City of Fayetteville was one of the first 10 cities in the United States to announce that we would adopt, honor and uphold the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Fayetteville is committed to working with leaders of other cities, states, universities, and businesses to combat climate change.

The City Council adopted a comprehensive Energy Action Plan. Fayetteville is the first city in Arkansas with a plan and is the 54th city in the United States to adopt 100% clean energy goals.

The plan establishes an overarching City goal of 80% Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction by 2050.

With this plan, we will create a legacy of stewardship for future generations of Fayetteville residents.

6. Financially Sustainable Government Providing Top-Notch Citizen Services

Finally, the last principle is providing top-notch citizen services. The quality of City operations is a critical element to our success. City Council highlighted organizational effectiveness as a key component to maintain and improve City operations.

Our lean government review strategy of all operational functions is a continuous process for achieving efficiencies and improving customer service.

Communication between department heads to address cross-divisional projects, streamlining processes, reducing barriers to service and red tape, and eliminating silo operations will continue to be goals for organizational effectiveness at the City.

Friends, Council Members, and citizens I want to assure you that the state of our City is strong and financially sound. I also want to assure you of something else as I conclude tonight:

We have a well thought-out strategy; we have a plan to keep our City strong and sound.

Due to sustained sales tax growth, we are expecting to pay down the $120 million sales tax bond passed in 2006 earlier than expected. This allows us to pay off the debt some time in 2019, approximately five years sooner than anticipated and saves us from additional interest costs.

Because of our financial stewardship in this city, our ability to invest in the future has been secured.

This gives us the opportunity to invest in a new package of capital projects for our future growth at the same tax rate currently in place. With your help, we will shape our future together with purpose and intent.

This bond package will be entirely for new items because our focus in our current budgeting process will be for maintenance of current assets as well as those we will continue to build.

I look forward to working with and collaborating with the City Council and our citizens to galvanize support from everyone for the next phase of "Your Tax Dollars at Work," for the next round of the city's growth planning.

Some of the items we have heard citizens are interested in discussing include: investments in Public Safety to match our growth; investments in our Parks system and the Cultural Arts Corridor; investments in our trails; sidewalks; road projects and transit systems; and last but not least, reducing flood effects by investing in our drainage systems.

My administration wants to serve as a bridge between our younger generations, who bring new and great ideas about urban competitiveness, and our traditionalists, who hold very high standards of what this City is and all it can be.

Closing

As I close tonight, I offer this quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – who reminded us,

"It really boils down to this: That all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly."

Together we will shape our own destiny for this City and its people.

Thank you!

Link to State of the City video below
https://youtu.be/YzwWKdvnQD4