

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 181 NORTH 9TH STREET, SHOW LOW, NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Seymore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Seymore, Vice Mayor Hatch, Councilman Allsop, Councilman Crittenden, Councilwoman Kakavas, Councilman Kelley, and Councilman Leech.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Muder, City Manager; F. Morgan Brown, City Attorney; Justen Tregaskes, Planning and Zoning Director; Bill Kopp, Public Works Director; Brad Provost, Police Commander; Justin Johnson, Administrative Services Director; Jay Brimhall, Community Services Director; Tom Bahr, Airport Manager; Tamra Reidhead, Deputy City Clerk; and Ann Kurasaki, City Clerk.

GUESTS: Julia Edens, Trudy Balcom, Sandra Wagner, Barbara Russo, Jeanne Merritt, Eugene and Helen Beaudoin, Ed Collins, Steve Best, and others.

3. Invocation.

Councilman Kelley gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Allsop led the Council and audience in the pledge of allegiance.

5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Any citizen desiring to speak on a matter that IS NOT scheduled on this agenda may do so at this time. Comments may be limited to three minutes per person and shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole, and not to any individual member. Issues raised shall be limited to those within the jurisdiction of the City Council. Pursuant to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the City Council cannot discuss or act on items presented at this time. At the conclusion of the call to the public, individual City Council members may (1) respond to criticism made by those who have spoken, (2) ask staff to review a matter, and (3) ask that a matter be put on a future agenda.

None.

6. **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- A. Presentation of “State of the City” Address. (Mayor Daryl Seymore)

Mayor Seymore presented the "State of the City" address (see Attachment "A").

- B. Presentation Regarding Prescribed Burning, Fuel Mitigation, and FireWise Programs.

Steve Best, Forest Supervisor, said prescribed burning provided advantages and benefits to the forest. Low-intensity, natural fires managed and controlled the forest historically without causing a lot of damage. The ecosystem changed when Europeans arrived and began preventing natural fires from occurring. Consequently, there were now thousands of trees per acre. The Forest Service had to use prescribed fires to maintain the forests to mitigate large fires since treating the areas mechanically was unaffordable.

Mr. Best said they burned between 15,000 and 30,000 acres each year but last year they burned about 47,000 acres, some caused by natural ignitions. This year’s target was 35,000 acres.

Mr. Best said the main concern with prescribed burning was smoke and smoke management. Wildfire smoke was much denser and of longer duration with more particulate matter than smoke produced by a prescribed fire. Under a managed situation, they could mitigate smoke as much as possible.

Mr. Best said residents who wanted to be notified when prescribed burns would take place could be added to a notification list so they could make arrangements to leave the area or prepare for smoke.

Mr. Best said prescribed burns cost between \$100 and \$175 an acre, which was much more economical than mechanical maintenance. The goal was to maintain the ecosystem in as natural a condition as possible and prevent the fuel build-up that caused catastrophic fires.

Mr. Best said Novo Power in Snowflake purchased some of the smaller material from the forest to burn and create electricity. Many of the businesses who used to work the forests were no longer here. However, the Four Forest Restoration Initiative was a collaborative effort to restore the forest ecosystems on four national forests in Arizona by doing some larger-scale treatments.

Councilman Crittenden asked for clarification about the lack of affordability of mechanical treatments. Mr. Best said much of the material from the forests was too small to use as lumber, so that material was what was burned during prescribed burning.

Councilwoman Kakavas asked how residents could be added to the notification list. Mr. Best said anyone who wanted to be on the list should call the district's Forest Service office. People could also call 511 to get information on burns and smoke.

Councilman Leech asked if the Forest Service issued permits to allow people to pick up and use the biomass in recreational fire pits at their homes. Mr. Best said no, the slash piles were not of an adequate size for firewood use.

Gene Beaudoin, Northeast District Manager for Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, said they were already making preparations for this year's oncoming fire season. The third annual FireWise Summit would be held on the Mountain in the latter part of April. More information would be available soon. The Ready, Set, Go! program through Navajo County, the FireWise program, and fire adaptive communities would all help to relay the message to residents and visitors about being fire safe.

Mr. Beaudoin said grants would be made available to those who needed financial help to clear their properties and make them fire safe. He would also be happy to meet with homeowner's associations to discuss the requirements to become a FireWise community.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Consideration of Acceptance of Grant from Rural Activation and Innovation Network and Authorization of Associated Budget Transfers. (Lisa Lewis)
- B. Consideration of Minutes of Show Low City Council meetings:
 - (1) Regular Meeting of January 2, 2018.

COUNCILMAN LEECH MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN ALLSOP; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. PUBLIC HEARING – Resolution No. R2018-02 Adopting the Show Low General Plan, Declaring as a Public Record that Certain Document Titled

"2018 Show Low General Plan," and Submitting the 2018 Show Low General Plan to the Voters of the City of Show Low. (Justen Tregaskes)

Mr. Tregaskes said in October 2007, the City Council adopted Resolution No. R2007-49, which adopted the current version of the Show Low General Plan. This plan was approved by the voters in March 2008. The state's Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus legislation mandated that all general plans must be updated every ten years and presented to the voters for approval. The recommendation was to present the new 2018 General Plan to the voters in the next regularly scheduled election on August 28, 2018.

Mr. Tregaskes said the existing 2008 General Plan was developed with help from a 14-citizen General Plan Advisory Committee. In response to rapid growth and growth patterns, the committee was charged with assisting in drafting a completely new 2008 General Plan. This new plan was created following committee meetings, community surveys, public open houses, Technical Advisory Committee input, and staff assistance before it was approved by the voters in 2008.

Mr. Tregaskes said as required by state law, cities and towns must adopt new plans, or re-adopt existing plans, every ten years. Staff presented a proposal to update the existing 2008 General Plan, rather than completely rewriting a new plan, to both the Commission and Council in study sessions. Based on the local economy over the past ten years and the subsequent lack of development, the consensus was that the previous projections were still valid. This update included new demographic data and revised maps within the existing document to reflect current city limits and conditions. A review draft of the 2018 General Plan was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to the mandatory 60-day review period. Following this presentation, staff distributed the proposed 2018 General Plan to various agencies for the required 60 days. No comments were received.

Mr. Tregaskes said the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing for comments related to the 2018 General Plan at its regular meeting of January 9, 2018, and no public input was received. Following the public hearing, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the 2018 General Plan to the City Council.

Mr. Tregaskes further explained that the general plan provided guidance for land use decisions, demographic information, and future land use projections. It was used also for capital improvement plans such as roads and trails and provided requirements for developers.

Mr. Tregaskes said the updated plan provided an opportunity to update information contained in the plan of 2008. The new plan included updated demographic data, city limits and total area, general information, and the Show Low development plan map.

Councilman Kelley asked if the General Plan would force a developer to build a road exactly where it was shown on the map or if there would be some flexibility in a road's location. Mr. Tregaskes said the General Plan indicated potential roads and trails through undeveloped areas with a dashed line, allowing some flexibility in locating roads. Topography would play a large part in a road's location.

Mayor Seymore opened the matter for a public hearing. There being no input, he closed the public hearing.

- B. Consideration of Resolution No. R2018-02 Adopting the Show Low General Plan, Declaring as a Public Record that Certain Document Titled "2018 Show Low General Plan," and Submitting the 2018 Show Low General Plan to the Voters of the City of Show Low. (Justen Tregaskes)

COUNCILMAN ALLSOP MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R2018-02 ADOPTING THE 2018 SHOW LOW GENERAL PLAN, DECLARING AS A PUBLIC RECORD THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENT FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK AND TITLED "2018 SHOW LOW GENERAL PLAN," AND SUBMITTING THE 2018 SHOW LOW GENERAL PLAN TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF SHOW LOW; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KELLEY; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. Consideration of Ordinance No. 2018-02 Amending Section 13-3-4, *Blocking traffic*, of Chapter 13, *Traffic*, of the Show Low City Code. (Justen Tregaskes)

Mr. Tregaskes said at the October 5, 2017, Council Retreat, staff presented information to the Council related to the occupancy of motor homes, recreational vehicles (RVs), campers, and similar type vehicles on City streets. This information was presented in response to a citizen complaint about a neighbor occupying an RV parked on the City street for several days.

Mr. Tregaskes said following this discussion, staff reviewed existing City Code regarding parking on City streets and occupancy of RVs and similar type vehicles. While there was no section in City Code that specifically addressed occupying RVs on a City street, Section 13-3-4(a), *Blocking traffic*, prohibited parking any vehicle on a City street when the parking of such vehicle resulted in less than twenty (20) feet in width of the remaining roadway for the movement of vehicle traffic. Additionally, Section 15-1-

44(L) states, "Campers, motor homes, and travel trailers in conjunction with a residence, may be inhabited for no more than fourteen (14) consecutive days, and no more than thirty (30) days in one (1) calendar year." This section did not specifically deal with the situation of an RV or similar type vehicle being occupied while located on a City street.

Mr. Tregaskes said in response to these findings, staff was recommending that Section 13-3-4, *Blocking traffic*, be amended to add subsection (c). This addition would prohibit occupying a motor home, recreational vehicle, camper, or similar type vehicle located either fully or partially on a paved street or sidewalk. Parking these vehicles in the right-of-way would not be affected, provided the vehicle was not occupied and the remaining sections of 13-3-4 were in compliance. Parking in areas signed "No Parking" was always prohibited. Parking occupied vehicles in the right-of way also would not be affected provided they were not parked on a sidewalk or the paved portion of the street.

Councilman Allsop asked if adopting this ordinance would have any effect on citizens who parked their RV on the street in front of their house while loading it to go camping compared to occupying the RV while it was parked on the street. Mr. Tregaskes said the ordinance would only affect RVs that were being occupied in the public street. A vehicle parked on the street but not occupied would not be affected by the provisions of the ordinance. However, subsection (a) stated that the street could not be blocked leaving less than 20 feet of pavement available for the free movement of vehicular traffic. A citizen could be in violation of existing city code if he didn't leave open at least 20 feet of the roadway.

Councilwoman Kakavas asked how long a vehicle could remain parked in the right-of-way if it was unoccupied. Mr. Tregaskes said under city code if the street was not signed "no parking" and the vehicle was not abandoned, his understanding was that there were no restrictions requiring it to be moved after a certain time period.

Sandra Wagner, 1400 North 40th Drive, said she met last week with Mr. Muder and some of her neighbors to discuss the RV parking situation. Last summer her neighbor had visitors who parked their RV on the street, which was only 24 feet wide and blocked two-way traffic. She was against any parking on the street and also against parking RVs in the front yard. She asked for clarification on what the Council was voting on tonight. Mayor Seymore said subsection (c) was what was being voted on. Subsections (a) and (b) were already part of the ordinance.

Mayor Seymore said the Council had to be mindful of all citizens. The new subsection, if adopted, would prevent people from living in their parked RVs.

Councilwoman Kakavas was concerned about the time frame for which vehicles were allowed to park on the street. There were vehicles in some subdivisions that had been parked a year or longer that impeded their neighbors' use of the street. She asked the Council to consider revising the ordinance to limit the time vehicles could be parked in the right-of-way.

Mayor Seymore suggested the Council approve what was being presented tonight and look at possible restrictions in the future.

Councilman Leech said if the Council approved the ordinance, it would give law enforcement the authority to cite anyone who was living in an RV parked on the street.

Councilman Kelley said he preferred the least restrictions possible. He agreed that no one should be allowed to block roadways and felt this ordinance was a good faith effort to prevent living in an RV that was parked in the city right-of-way.

Councilman Allsop said he would not consider parking a vehicle/trailer on the roadway for a short period of time to be blocking the road if at least one lane of traffic was available for cars to pass. Mr. Tregaskes clarified that anything that resulted in less than 20 feet of available pavement width would be defined as blocking the road and would be a violation of city code.

Mayor Seymore said the restriction about blocking the road was current law, but very few residents had been cited. Tonight's discussion was about adding a provision making it unlawful to occupy an RV parked on or partially on a paved road.

By unanimous consent, Ms. Kurasaki read Ordinance No. 2018-02 by title only since all Council members had a copy.

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHOW LOW, ARIZONA, AMENDING SECTION 13-3-4, BLOCKING TRAFFIC, OF CHAPTER 13, TRAFFIC, OF THE SHOW LOW CITY CODE"

COUNCILMAN KELLEY MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02; SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR HATCH; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Consideration of Essential Air Service Proposals. (Bill Kopp)

Mr. Kopp said every two years the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) solicited proposals from interested airlines to provide Essential Air

Service (EAS) for the Show Low Regional Airport. The latest round of proposals was submitted to DOT on Monday, December 11, 2017. Four airlines submitted proposals to DOT: Boutique Air, Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., Tropic Ocean Airways LLC, and Precision Aeromedical Transport LLC dba Sunrise Air.

Mr. Kopp said the Department of Transportation allowed the host City to provide input regarding its preferences as part of the selection process. The final selection was solely a DOT decision, but they would take the local recommendation into consideration. Although not a requirement of the selection process, the City Council could opt to perform interviews with the proposing airlines.

Mr. Kopp the deadline for any recommendation from the City was February 12. Some options might include a recommendation based on the proposals or performance alone, or live interviews with some or all of the proposers.

Councilman Allsop said he needed to disclose that he received an email from Sunrise Air. Several other Council members said they also received the email. Mayor Seymore added that he also had a conversation with a representative of Sunrise Air.

Councilman Leech felt the Council should schedule time to meet with all the air carriers.

Councilman Allsop asked if the City had received any complaints from Boutique Air since it became the City's EAS provider. Mr. Kopp said although Boutique was a fairly new provider, it was meeting the required enplanement numbers, which allowed Show Low to remain in the EAS program. Boutique also purchased a lot of fuel at the airport, which its management had committed to do.

Councilman Allsop felt that Boutique had been a good selection. The carrier provided excellent service and kept Show Low from losing its EAS when enplanement numbers dropped a few years ago with a previous airline.

Mayor Seymore said interviewing the four proposers would not change what they submitted to DOT. Boutique and Great Lakes each submitted a comprehensive proposal, while the other two proposers submitted one-page applications. Great Lakes had not provided good service in the past, but he would agree to interview the proposers if that was the Council's wish.

Mayor Seymore said the City didn't make the final selection but was only making a recommendation to DOT, who would make its decision based on the submittals.

Councilman Kelley asked if there was anything significant that Boutique promised but failed to deliver. Mr. Kopp said there wasn't anything significant. Staff spoke to Boutique representatives recently about their marketing funds since staff had not seen many promotions from them around the community. Consequently, Boutique requested a list of City events so they could live up to its commitment. He noted that the City had not actively pursued those dollars.

Mr. Kopp added that it was a significant expense to require the proposers to come to Show Low for interviews.

Councilman Allsop felt that if it wasn't for Boutique, Show Low would have lost commuter air service a long time ago. He felt Boutique was meeting the needs of the White Mountain community.

Vice Mayor Hatch said Boutique had his vote of confidence.

Councilwoman Kakavas said she had heard comments that people were very impressed with Boutique's service. Customer service had increased exponentially.

COUNCILMAN ALLSOP MOVED TO SEND A LETTER TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SUPPORTING BOUTIQUE AIR AS THE PREFERRED ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE CARRIER FOR SHOW LOW; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN HATCH; PASSED 6 TO 1 WITH COUNCILMAN LEECH CASTING THE DISSENTING VOTE.

9. **SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS:**

A. Council Members

Councilman Allsop said he attended a Show Low Main Street board meeting. Main Street was already selling spaces for this year's farmers' market and art walk, which would be open from May 26 to September 29. They discussed the wayfinder signs, which were being painted and would be installed later this year. He reported he also attended a Meals on Wheels board meeting and discussed the change in menus and personnel and ways to improve their services. He thanked Subaru for providing a new car to Meals on Wheels for delivering meals. He also thanked Horne Chevrolet for placing the decals and Vinnedge Sign Works for wrapping the vehicle.

B. Mayor

Mayor Seymore said he, along with the City Manager, City Attorney and other Council members, would attend Legislative Day at the state capital to meet with state legislators tomorrow.

C. City Manager

Mr. Muder said the recreation department was selling tickets at \$6 each for the Daddy Daughter Valentine's Day Dance on February 2, for girls ages 1 to 14 at the city campus gym. Staff was also selling tickets at \$20 each for a concert by The Piano Man, Terry Davies, on February 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Show Low School District auditorium. The Piano Man performed the music of Billy Joel and Elton John. Recreation staff was also accepting registrations for the 6th annual BBQ Throwdown scheduled for May 5.

Mr. Muder said staff was beginning the process to prepare the City's fiscal year 2019 budget and would hold a town hall-style budget meeting specifically for citizen input on Thursday, January 18, at 6:00 p.m. A complete list of the budget meetings was shown on the City's website at showlowaz.gov. All meetings were open to the public and held in Council Chambers.

Mr. Muder offered condolences to the family of William "Bill" Thomas, who passed away last week. He served on the City Council from 2002 to 2006 and was an active member of the community.

10. **SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS:**

Scheduling of meetings, which may be brought up at this time.

None.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to be brought before the Council, **MAYOR SEYMORE ADJOURNED THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL OF JANUARY 16, 2018 AT 8:20 P.M.**

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Ann Kurasaki, City Clerk

Daryl Seymore, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council of Show Low held on January 16, 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

Ann Kurasaki, City Clerk

STATE OF THE CITY
February 7, 2017

The start of the new year is the perfect time to reflect on what we accomplished last year and to share our plans for 2018. All City Council policies and decisions are driven by four major priorities we have identified: (1) to preserve and repair our infrastructure (especially roads, water, and sewer), (2) to pursue community and economic development, (3) to improve our quality of life (including better safety, education, and opportunities), and (4) to maintain an organization with solid and stable leadership. Our major accomplishments over the past year, our financial health and outlook, and our future plans consistently support these four priorities.

Our city's economic outlook continues a slow, steady upward trend. As evidence, monthly sales tax revenues in 2017 showed slight increases over 2016, with retail comprising almost 75% of total collections. We also saw increased construction activity in both the residential and commercial sectors.

Our longstanding policy of fiscal conservatism and saving money for the future allowed us to proceed with several important projects. The most notable was renovating an existing building on the Deuce of Clubs into a new public safety headquarters that opened in late summer. This attractive, highly visible civic addition houses our police department, Navajo County Sheriff's Office substation, and jail annex.

To meet our priority to maintain and improve existing infrastructure, we completed a number of key projects, including:

- Upsizing a major water main along the south side of the Deuce of Clubs from South 8th Avenue east to Central and replacing a water line on 16th Avenue.
- Improving East Owens by replacing a water line, repairing a sewer line, and milling and overlaying the roadway.
- Reconstructing roads in Park Valley and the Fools Hollow area, improving city-owned portions of Penrod and Show Low Lake Roads, and rebuilding 10th Avenue west of Safeway.
- Replacing sewer lines in the Westwood subdivision (one of the city's oldest) and completing the upgrade of the sewer treatment plant by adding a building for testing and monitoring equipment.
- Connecting sidewalk sections on the north and south sides of the Deuce of Clubs near the Clark Road intersection.

In addition, the Arizona Department of Transportation funded and managed two projects in Show Low—the first project replaced box culverts at 11th Street and Huning and the second widened US60 (Deuce of Clubs) from the SR77 intersection east to 40th Street, with final touches to be completed this summer.

In our pursuit of economic development and business growth, we welcomed two new businesses, The UPS Store and Show Low Storage. Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center did more remodeling of existing facilities and, late last year, broke

ground north of the hospital for a major expansion project that will result in new medical offices, an ambulatory surgery center, and an administrative services building. In multi-family housing, two seven-plex apartment buildings on 4th Drive were constructed.

Boutique Air, the commuter airline, continues to successfully maintain a daily flight schedule between Show Low and Phoenix with consistently high passenger use and satisfaction.

To improve our quality of life—another priority—our city employees dedicated themselves to providing a variety of events, including sports leagues, kids' and family-friendly events, holiday happenings, music, and entertainment in our parks, library, and aquatic center. To celebrate our May 1953 incorporation, we held our annual party along with the annual BBQ Throwdown competition. The increasingly popular Throwdown drew master BBQ Pitmasters from across the United States, with savory BBQ offerings and daylong festivities.

In the summer, our annual Fourth of July parade and FreedomFest drew spectators and participants from across the region to enjoy patriotic activities, live music, and spectacular fireworks. Our signature Show Low Shines for the Holidays illuminated our city with sparkling Christmas lights and holiday spirit. We had one of our best Christmas Light Parades with many participants and spectators. At year's end, we counted down to midnight with our Deuce of Clubs Drop and fireworks.

In improved amenities, we expanded the parking lot at Show Low Bluff trail and established a community fishing program at Show Low Creek in association with Arizona Game and Fish. We built new restrooms at Show Low Lake campground and created a Fitness Zone of outdoor exercise equipment in City Park, which was a 50/50 cost share with the manufacturer.

We're proud of our heritage of bringing hope and the prospect of a better life through our community projects and holiday assistance programs. Our employees and community volunteers spent several hours making the dog park more accessible and attractive in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, an annual service day we've held since 2009. We also supported the fifth annual Community Fast of Compassion, helping our community raise over \$16,000 for individuals and families in need during the holidays. We thank everyone who donated their time, money, and efforts.

In terms of our financial position, the Council and staff are committed to using your taxpayer dollars wisely. Our conservative fiscal policy ensures we have the necessary funds to meet your needs and to weather economic downturns. We never spend more than we have budgeted. We also save money to pay for at least a portion of larger, more expensive projects in future years. Our department managers share that vision by carefully analyzing every program to ensure efficiency. I'm proud to say our fiscal policies have allowed Show Low to survive difficult economic times and see modest growth.

Our cost-conscious approach supports our pledge to deliver full police and public works services, community events, and recreational activities to ensure your needs and interests are met. We offered our 19th annual free Project Clean Sweep beautification program, co-sponsored the annual record-breaking electronic waste collection event, and provided a Christmas tree recycling site.

Looking to 2018, our plans include:

- Extending the sewer main on the east side of White Mountain Road from Hidden Way to Ellsworth Road.
- Improving the sewer systems in the Camptown area on McNeil and in three older subdivisions, Parkview, Park Plaza, and Sierra Vista.
- Replacing a water line in West McNeil from Fox Canyon to the Deuce of Clubs.
- Improving the water and road systems along 8th Street to connect Whipple and Woolford.
- Building four outdoor pickleball courts at the city campus on East McNeil.
- At City Park, we will install new children's playground equipment geared for different ages along Owens; improve landscaping and reconfigure the parking area west of the Little League field; and add curbs and surface material at the dog park.
- Using grant funds, we will construct new sidewalks on East McNeil between 8th and 9th Streets and replace the sidewalk on 8th Street from East McNeil to the Deuce of Clubs.
- We will continue to collaborate with other communities to bring added-value services to our region, such as our much-needed transit system and supporting tourism marketing efforts.

2018 will bring city elections in the fall, to fill three Council seats and to seek voter approval for a revised General Plan, which is required by state law to be presented to voters every ten years.

The City Council thanks you for your confidence in our ability to handle city affairs, a sentiment echoed by your fellow Americans. Polls show that for more than a decade, Americans continue to trust local governments more than state governments or the federal government. Because the Council and our city staff are dedicated to remain accessible to you, we welcome your feedback, we are responsive and transparent, and we work together as a group in a non-partisan way.

We believe in retaining local control over the city's budget, which must be balanced according to state law. To protect you and our city's assets, we voluntarily imposed two permanent mandates—to maintain at least a minimum of a million dollars in reserves and to require a super-majority vote of the sitting Council to approve any tax increase.

We attribute much of our success to the able assistance of our city employees and volunteers who deliver their best to serve you. Our advisory committees, Senior Patrol, and Library Friends all provide their services for free, saving taxpayer dollars. We invite

you to join us. Come volunteer your time, talents, or materials to better our community. Join us on May 12 for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project. Or participate in our civic process when the Council and staff meet to discuss next fiscal year's budget. Every budget meeting, held here in Council Chambers, is open to the public. We begin the process in January, with a town hall-style meeting designed specifically for citizen input this Thursday, January 18, at 6:00 p.m. We'll hold another budget town hall for public input on Thursday, April 5. The entire budget calendar is posted on our website.

The political and social landscape has gone through much change over the past year. But let that not deter us from supporting each other, focusing on the positive, and enriching the world as we embark on the new year. Let us leave behind a legacy of a better city for tomorrow and for future generations. We wish you and your family the best of health, peace, and happiness in 2018. I want to say thanks to all our citizens. Thank you for all you do to make our community a great place to live and may God continue to bless us and prosper our community.