

State of the City - Montgomery

As the City transitions into 2020, it's important that we also look back on the year to identify some highlights of the many positive things for the community that have been accomplished in 2019 and will continue into 2020.....

- Street Program - The Public Works Advisory Board actively worked to develop a comprehensive street reconstruction and maintenance program. Residents have asked City Council to address street improvements for several years. Council approved the 2021 - 2033 street improvement plan and a 2020 street improvement project.
- Finances - By prioritizing the needs of the community, City Council and Staff have made sound and necessary decisions to continue to improve the financial status of the general and enterprise funds. Early year end projections show the funds healthier than expected.
- Housing and Economic Development - The City has grown its housing stock by 16 new homes in 2019 along with many revitalization projects of existing homes. New and expanded businesses continue to trend within the City. 1st Street's B-3 district has seen several new businesses, relocation's and expansions along with the Highway B-2 district. The Economic Development Authority continues its efforts to market the community for new business and to help with existing business needs.
- Police - Council approved the hiring of Chief Nathan Hintz. Council also approved the hiring of an additional officer, fully staffing the department to provide a high level of service to the community. The MPD continues to provide local public safety along with participating/sponsoring/holding many community and school presentations and events.
- Parks - The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) was authorized for a grant for the restoration of native prairie in the North Ridge Recreation Area. Work began in the fall of 2019 and will be completed in 2020. Future park expansions will include hiking, walking, cross country and snow shoeing trails and a sliding hill. The softball field reconstruction project in Northside Park completed its first phase. Council and the PRAB partnered with the TCU Softball Association to rename the softball fields to the Carol Lilla Fields as a memorial to Ms. Carol Lilla. Additional property was also acquired expanding the Northside Park for future areas for soccer fields and/or hockey and skating rinks. The Music in the Park summer series continues to be supported by residents and looks to expand in 2020. The PRAB continues among its priorities to provide a long term comprehensive parks improvements plan.
- Facilities - 2019 Council moved the proposed concept facility and City Hall updates to a referendum vote. Although the referendum was defeated, more progress was made on the facility question than in years prior. Council will reevaluate and begin secondary discussions regarding general maintenance and improvements to existing spaces. Revitalizing facilities through paint and other low cost items will be a 2020 focus to improve the image and aesthetics of the buildings. Another point of discussion may be the PD facility. City Council will be reaching out to residents to help provide guidance towards a viable solution best representing the City as a whole.

The opportunities provided to me as Mayor to engage with the community have been exciting and welcoming. I am very proud to be working alongside community members, business owners, volunteers, City staff and City Council. All and all, the status of the City of Montgomery is consistently improving and doing well. I look forward to the challenges and successes 2020 will most certainly bring.

Thank you and on behalf of the City of Montgomery.....Happy New Year!

Thomas E. Eisert
Mayor of Montgomery