

MAYOR'S MUMBLINGS

I figured it was time to do my State of the City speech. Being Mayor for over 160 days has been a very learning experience. As most of you know, I have always been involved in the government during my adult life. Usually, it was at the other end of dealing with the budget and expenses, always asking why I couldn't buy the necessary equipment. Now as your mayor, I understand the fiscal responsibilities it takes not to be wasteful of your tax dollars.

One of my main goals is to make Whitewater one of those towns people say that is a neat little place. Unfortunately, we lost two of our eating establishments, Mom's Cafe, several years ago and just recently the Whitewater Pizza Place. I'm so glad that the ladies at the Cabin Pie company have opened their business in the old grocery store. We have several businesses that keep the town surviving, The Whitewater Locker, Main Street Blooms, Ravenscraft Implements, Lamb Funeral Home, Vintage Bank, Precision Cuts, Bell Automotive and Wheat State Manor. If I forgot a business, I am sorry please let me know and I will talk about yours in my next article.

We have two outstanding school systems, whether it be Frederick Remington School District or Berean Academy. Our kids have great educational opportunities. Speaking of outstanding learning opportunities, the Whitewater Library is a fantastic place. If you haven't visited it, please do it. The Head Librarian Jean Thiessen is one of the hardest working people I have met.

The Whitewater Fire District is an important asset for the community and surrounding areas. Fire Chief Bob Bartlett does a great job of taking care of our local needs and getting our volunteers the necessary training to keep us safe.

The City Staff have really educated me and made my duties a lot easier. Anne Morrow, the City Clerk, has a great amount of knowledge in the short time she has been here. Anne has really kept things running smoothly and reminded me of what I can and can't do as mayor. City Superintendent Andrew Hanna has been very diligent in keeping the city running even when the mayor (me) has dumb requests or questions. I've learned more about the sewage system than I ever knew. Mr. Hanna's assistant Brandon Haus has been with the city for several years and has provided me with valuable insight into City operations. As you have noticed this summer, we have hired some summer help, and they are doing a fantastic job other than getting stuck in the mud, Nolan Sweazy and Grady Jones. We also have an office helper for Anne, Chloe Callstrom, who has really helped us organize and get the old records whipped into shape. And finally, is the City Treasurer Terry Ullum. This guy is incredible, if it wasn't for him not sure what I would do when it comes to finances for the city. He definitely keeps the purse strings tight but does open it for my occasional good idea. He says we can do that, but Council needs to approve it.

Then we have citizens who volunteer to serve on our various boards. Those Boards are the Cemetery, Parks and Recreation, Planning & Zoning and Library Boards. I want to thank the individuals that sit on these boards for all the hard work that they do for the Community. This is another thankless job that doesn't get the appreciation it deserves. If you are interested in any of these boards, please reach out to Anne or me, so when an opening occurs, we can have someone ready to step in and help.

The City and Remington School District have worked together to make major improvements to Jerry Hill Memorial Ball Park. There will be more projects in the future so keep your eyes open for them. We also will be updating several of the City Buildings in the next couple of months.

If you have ideas or suggestions, please bring them to me. Just remember your idea might need funding so have those ideas in mind also.

I want to THANK YOU for electing me as your mayor.

Timothy Eldredge

