

## **Mayor's Corner**

January 2017 Edition

First off, Happy New Year! We are well into January and like with many months, it seems as though this one is flying by just like so many others. With this said, we must embrace each day and moment and make the best of the times that we spend with family and friends. Do not let any minute go by without appreciating what we have and those around us.

Things have been very busy at City Hall. The big news that was announced in late December was the appointment of our new City Administrator, Steve Sellers. Steve officially began his role as City Administrator on January 2nd. To Steve's style, he jumped in with both feet to get started. Over the past two weeks, Steve has been working to understand all of the things that we have going on at City Hall. At the same time, Steve is getting to know all of the city staff and their roles and functions. The great news is that Steve has a significant background and history of Lawson so getting up to speed with our town is no issue. This is a huge benefit.

Steve and I will be working closely together, along with key city staff members, to set the future strategy for Lawson. The biggest news out of the gate is the savings of over \$65,000 that Steve has already brought to the city. In my previous Mayor's corner editions, I have stated that we will begin working on a new comprehensive plan for the city. The staff and I have narrowed our search down to two qualified firms that will help us complete this project. The cost to do so would have ranged from \$65,000 - \$75,000. With Steve's experience developing strategic (comprehensive) plans, coupled with our very talented in-house staff, we are going to take this project on ourselves. Strategic planning begins with collecting data (opinions) from those who live and work in our city. In addition to the above news, we will be working to execute what I will term as "Operational Excellence". More to come on this but simply put, I will be looking for areas in which our departments can become more efficient in 2017 and beyond while also looking for cost savings measures.

We are working on finalizing costs for various projects that are part of the \$4.5M bond that you, the citizens of Lawson, approved this past fall. The plan is to put together a presentation to share with you that will capture our current and future plans for the city of Lawson, both existing new infrastructure. Naturally this will also play into the comprehensive plan. We are working closely with the Economic Development Committee in respect to the future opportunities.

I am more excited about the future of Lawson than ever. Since September, we have added three new members to the team, Ben Hyde, Economic Development Director, Don Petree, City Treasurer, and the latest, Steve Sellers, City Administrator. This coupled with the addition of the Administrative Chief, Norm Hemmerling, the city is positioned to have a great year in 2017.

### Important Upcoming Dates

♣ January 23, 2017 - 6:00 PM City Council Meeting

Your Mayor Greg Taylor