

## Mayor's Corner

April 2017 Edition

"A Year-In-Review"

I wanted to open my monthly Mayor's Corner with a quote of "Father Time Does Not Stand Still". We have all heard this phrase and it is so true, especially as we grow another year older in life. We should all take the time to enjoy one another and live every day to its fullest. Take the time to appreciate what we have. Enjoy family and friends and embrace every day with an open mind and heart and soak it all in.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks for your support in electing me as your mayor. Yes, it has been a year and what a year it has been. When taking office a year ago, there was much work that needed (and still needs) to be done. We have such a wonderful family oriented community that so many of us take much pride in. For this, I am thankful. We have built a very strong team at City Hall (led by our fearless leader Steve Sellers), our works department, and our committees (Parks & Recreation, Finance, and the Planning & Zoning Committee). In addition, we have four outstanding city council members who truly are committed to helping Lawson grow for the future. Finally, we have an Economic Development Committee that has provided guidance and ideation that may bring new opportunities in the coming years. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, VFW, Rotary Club, and Masonic Lodge.

Many of you have commented to me about the progress in our town. I have coined a phrase, which, I recently presented at the State of the Cities meeting presented by the Clay County EDC, "**Come See Us Grow**". I am confident that Lawson is on the brink of substantial growth for the future that will represent new families and new business opportunities in the coming months/years. So many of you have been so supportive and for this, I say, "Thank you".

Below are some of the accomplishments and news from year one:

- ✓ Appointed new President of Parks, Recreation, & Beautification Committee-Tim Broughton
- ✓ Curbside recycling offered through Red Gate to help make our community "Green"
- ✓ Installed gates and operating hours at the city works facility for lawn & refuge drop off to cut down on guests outside of Lawson dumping at our facility

- ✓ New Dawn Fiber announces they are coming to Lawson.
- ✓ Parks, Rec, & Beautification Committee builds new concession stand to support movies in the park. What a success that was this past year and looking forward to a great season in 2017.
- ✓ The City Council, Chamber of Commerce and I hosted multiple open house discussions to present the “no tax increase” \$4.5M bond.
- ✓ In August 2016, you overwhelmingly passed the \$4.5M bond to help address much needed improvements in infrastructure.
- ✓ Added an economic development director and treasurer to the staff at city hall
- ✓ MGE agreed to a gas line extension down 184<sup>th</sup> street and 69 Hwy at no cost to the city of Lawson.
- ✓ Received multiple grants equating to over \$450,000 (\$50,000 Department of Natural Resources for the lagoon study, \$200,000 Transportation Alternative Program grant for sidewalk in front of the high school with long term vision to connect to the Lawson trails system, \$202,000 Missouri Department of Conservation grant for improvements at the city lake to include riprap, fishing dock, new privy, and sidewalks).
- ✓ Successfully sold the funeral home located across the street from City Hall to Ross & Speidel. This is now back on the tax rolls and off the city ledger as an unused asset/expense.
- ✓ VFW announced that it has received funding to tear down the old grocery store and rebuild a new facility on the existing footprint. This is happening as I write this.
- ✓ We hired Norm Hemmerling to come on board as the Administrative Police Chief while our beloved Chief Robert Smith battles to beat cancer.
- ✓ Council members approved a short-term incentive to waive building permit fees (residential and commercial) for the next 20 permits.
- ✓ Passed an ordinance allowing the use of golf carts and UTV’s (with proper permit from city hall) in the city limits
- ✓ Record turnout at both the Lawson Picnic and Fall Festival led by the Parks & Recreation Committee and Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ Hired Steve Sellers to replace David Blackburn as our City Administrator
- ✓ Working on and finalizing a new Comprehensive Plan for the City of Lawson. The last time this was done was 1988. This is being done in-house led by Steve Sellers and team, which will save the City over \$65,000.
- ✓ Collin Jones joined the city team in February to take over the duties of the water department, which was a vacated position prior to her joining the team. She has been a positive addition.

- ✓ Recently upgraded our city's website, which can be found at the following address. (<http://cityoflawsonmo.municipalimpact.com>). Wow, what an improvement! A special shout out to Marcia Petty who helped to develop this fantastic new site.
- ✓ We are in the final stages of updating our city logo. We will announce the winners at the upcoming city council meeting.
- ✓ New shelter house and bridge built at the city lake by our outstanding Parks, Rec, & Beautification committee.

During my campaign for office, I visited with many residents in Lawson and during our debate shared with you my 10-point plan. I am pleased to advise that there has been work done on all 10 points and some to a significant extent. This naturally did not happen by my own efforts. This was a team effort by those listed above as well as many of you in our wonderful town.

There is another saying that comes to mind as I close. "Rome was not built in a day". This is true, but I will tell you this, the resurgence of Lawson and sustainable long-term growth is happening all around us. I am confident we will see significant changes in the upcoming months and years and I am excited to be a part of this growth.

- April 24, 2017 - 6:00 PM City Council Meeting

Your Mayor

*Greg Taylor*